THE

Life and Adventures

OF

BENJAMIN BRASS.

AN

Iriſh Fortune-Hunter.

IN TWO VOLUMES,

VOLUME I.

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THE

Life and Adventures

OF

BENJAMIN BRASS.

CHAP. I.

Wherein the motives that induced Benjamin Braſs, the hero of theſe memoirs, to go in queſt of a fortune in the province of Matrimony, are particularly related.

MUCH pleaſure ſhould we receive in recounting the juvenile exploits of the hero of the following pages, but unfortunately we are debarred from that ſatisfaction, as well as from gratifying the curio-

ſity of our readers, by the incidents of that part of his life being buried in oblivion, no hiſtorian having had ſo much regard to poſterity as to take cognizance of them: however, that we might give our readers the beſt information we poſſibly could, we thought it incumbent upon us to make ſome enquiry into his general character; and ſorry we are, that truth obliges us to inform them, that from the beſt intelligence we can collect, Benjamin Braſs diſcovered, in his earlieſt days, a proneneſs to all kinds of miſchief; and our readers may, without injuring the reputation of our hero, conclude he was guilty of robbing orchards, and every other miſchievous prank, which the heroes of romances are remarkable for, and whoſe puerile actions are ſo minutely recorded by their faithful hiſtorians: but as we profeſs, in the courſe of

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theſe memoirs, to adhere ſtrictly to truth, we ſhall not impoſe upon our readers credulity, by inventing a ſeries of ideal exploits, which ſeldom have any other exiſtence than in the "chaotick brain of a moon ſtruck author," but introduce our hero to the acquaintance of our readers, at the time when the more important buſineſs of his life commenced. Before we relate the various adventures he met with, during his ſearch for a fortune among the fair ſex, it will be proper to give them an account of his birth and extraction.

Benjamin Braſs, the hero of theſe memoirs, was the ſon of Dennis Braſs, who lived in the province of Munſter in the kingdom of Ireland, and whoſe anceſtors, for time whereof the memory of man is not to the contrary, had been remarkable for making the

beſt brogues in the whole province; and for many generations this ancient family had made it a rule to initiate the eldeſt ſon in the myſtery of brogue-making; and our hero, who was the firſt born from the marriage of his father, with Shelah Shanagahan, daughter of a neighbouring taylor, was accordingly deſigned to ſucceed his father in the occupation his predeceſſors had handed down to him. But fate ordained it otherwiſe, and with the breath of his father, ſtopped the ignoble calling of brogue-making from longer degrading the eldeſt ſon of this worthy family; for Benjamin, upon the death of his father, which happened when our hero was in the ſeventeenth year of his age, who being a youth of an enterprizing diſpoſition, diſdained the humble ſtation his anceſtors had filled, and thought a gentleman's life was much preferable to

that of making brogues, and ſoon came to a reſolution to put himſelf apprentice to the firſt gentleman he could meet with, and in a ſhort time after, a neighbouring ſquire retained him in the capacity of a helper in his ſtables.

In this ſtation Benjamin remained about four years, during which time he found, that learning to be a gentleman was not ſo agreeable as he imagined; nor did he find that he had advanced any thing nearer towards ſetting up in the profeſſion than he was the firſt day he bound himſelf apprentice, from whence he concluded there was ſome ſecret that he was not yet acquainted with, which prevented his gaining the ſummit he ſaw the ſquire his maſter was arrived at: for Benjamin fancied the ſquire had firſt taken his de-

grees of gentility in the ſtable, as well as himſelf.

Our young hero having ſpent ſome time in cogitation upon what could be the reaſon of his non-advancement to gentility, the important ſecret at length ſtood revealed, and Benjamin diſcovered there was a very eſſential requiſite wanting to make a gentleman of him, namely, that of a fortune. But ſoon recollecting that many of his countrymen had found out a method to commence gentlemen, who had originally no better pretenſions to that ſtation than himſelf; he began to explore the avenues by which his ſucceſsful countrymen had been conducted to affluence and independence; and ſoon diſcovered that the greateſt number of them had taken the road to the province of matrimony, and that it was of all o-

thers

thers the moſt beaten track to gentility; and having made an eſtimate of the various qualifications that had been moſt ſucceſsful and expeditious in conducting the poſſeſſors of them to the wiſhed for port of good fortune, he found, upon taking an inventory of his own perſonal accompliſhments, that nature had been very liberal in providing him with the ſureſt paſſports to the hearts of the fair ſex, and that ſhe had, by beſtowing upon him ſuch ample gifts, pointed to him the road to greatneſs; therefore he reſolved to export his extraordinary accompliſhments, to that place where the owners of them are in general the beſt rewarded, and without farther delay, determined to repair to the metropolis of England, where he made no doubt but his perſonal excellence would prove the herald of his

merit, and captivate the hearts of the Britiſh ladies of fortune.

Our hero having taken this reſolution, he next employed his thoughts in fixing upon a plan to accompliſh his important project, and ſpent ſome time in meditating upon ways and means to undertake it; but his diſpoſition not affording him patience enough to walk by the narrow rule of right, he took the more expeditious means of attaining his deſires, by borrowing the ſum of twenty guineas of the ſquire his maſter, who had, luckily for Benjamin, one day left the key in his eſcrutore. This fortunate circumſtance Benjamin looked upon as a good omen of his future ſucceſs; and being in poſſeſſion of the twenty guineas, he immediately ſet out for the port of Dublin, and fortunately arrived there at the time the packet

packet was departing for England, on board which, after bidding adieu to the Hibernian ſhore, he immediately embarked.

And now, gentle reader, let thy fancy ſupply the place of faint deſcription, and ſuppoſe our adventurous ſon of a brogue-maker, wafted by pleaſant gales to the Britiſh ſhore: no ſtorms we raiſe to ſwell the imagination nor diſturb the calm tranquility of our fair readers breaſts, but ſafely land him at the port of Cheſter; and here, reader, we will cloſe the firſt chapter of our hero's life. And if thou haſt any inclination to know the various adventures he met with, in the courſe of his ſearch for a fortune in the province of matrimony, thou may'ſt find them faithfully recorded in the following pages.

CHAP. II.

Which is the ſhorteſt Chapter in theſe Memoirs.

BEnjamin Braſs, being ſafely arrived at Cheſter, reſolved to make the beſt of his way to London, and likewiſe came to a reſolution to proceed thither on foot, which, at the ſame time that the exerciſe would give him a free manly air, and make him capable of rendering ſatisfaction almoſt to an inſatiable dowager, would likewiſe ſave that money which puny ſtriplings diſpoſe of for the feminine pleaſure of a vehicle.

And now, reader, think thou ſeeſt our young hero urging his way to the capital with manly ſtrides, far unlike the light trippings of the London petit

petit maitres, while health ſat in the colour of deep vermilion upon his manly cheeks and lips; and having advanced as far as the pleaſant country of Stafford, without any adventure happening to him worthy thy notice, he now by an eaſy aſſent reached the ſummit of Cannock Heath, well known to travellers for the delightful proſpect it affords. Braſs being arrived here an hour after ſun riſe, ſtood contemplating the wide expanded ſcene of woods, meandering rivers, and verdant fields, and preſently caſting his eyes upon the declivity of the Heath, he ſaw an object that took up his whole attention, but whether it was lately dropped from the moon, or was an inhabitant of the woods, was, at that inſtant, out of his power to determine.

As the ſtrange figure advanced towards him, his blood curdled, and a ſecret horror ſeized his ſoul: however, graſping his cudgel, he reſolved to await its coming, as he perceived it ſhaped its courſe directly to him; as ſoon as this amazing object had reached within half a ſcore yards of Braſs, he perceived it was of the human ſpecies; but of what ſex ſtill remained a doubt, being habited to the waiſt like a male, but from thence downwards like a female: as it approached nearer him, a long yellow withered face diſcovered it was a woman, who appeared to be not far on this ſide fourſcore; as ſoon as ſhe came up to Braſs ſhe immediately ſeized one of his hands, but he perceiving her nails were of equal length with her fingers, did not chooſe to join hands with her, but ſtarting back liſted up his cudgel and ſtood in a poſ-

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ture of defence, not being thoroughly ſatisfied whether it was a woman or the devil: the ſtranger ſeeing Braſs ſtand with his ſtick raiſed, told him if ſhe was inclined to injure him, it would be in vain for him to contend with her, but that ſhe was ſo far from having a deſign to hurt him, that ſhe would give him ſome uſeful inſtructions for the conduct of his life, and particularly in the enterprize he was then upon. The concluſive part of the ſtranger's ſpeech, confirmed Braſs's opinion that he was in company with an inhabitant of the ſubterraneous regions, and without farther heſitation ſuffered her to take his hand, which after ſhe had looked into ſome time, ſhe told him he would have many diſappointments and misfortunes, but alſo much good fortune would attend him, and concluded with ſaying, if he would croſs her hand with ſix-pence, ſhe would

tell

tell him many particulars in his future life; Braſs accordingly gave her the money, upon which looking on his hand again, ſhe told him the firſt thing he undertook he would be ſucceſsful in, even beyond his hopes, with many other ſtrange particulars, and at length concluded with aſſuring him, if he perſevered in his preſent reſolution, notwithſtanding the many diſappointments and diſgraces that would happen to him, he might depend upon arriving at that ſtate he had reaſon to hope and expect, and bidding him proceed and proſper, left him overjoyed to find his own opinion of his future fortune confirmed by one verſed in the book of fate, and converſant with the decrees of the ſtars.

As ſoon as the ſtranger, whom Braſs ſuppoſed at leaſt a witch, if not a much nearer relation of the devil's, was depart-

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ed, he ſet forward with eager haſte, being impatient to prove the truth of the oracle, and his legs, happily keeping pace with his deſires, he very ſhortly after arrived at London, and took up his lodging at the Blue Boar in Holborn, where we will leave him to his reſt after this toilſome journey.

CHAP.

CHAP. III.

In which a very important perſonage in theſe memoirs, is introduced to the readers acquaintance, with other intereſting particulars.

BRASS being now arrived at the grand mart, where ſuch accompliſhments as he poſſeſſed are in the greateſt eſtimation; and which frequently turn to better account than the moſt painful induſtry, in the exerciſe of a manual employment, or a cloſe application to the more refined acquirements of the mind, concluded he had nothing more to do than to exhibit himſelf to the beſt advantage; and that before his ſtock of money was exhauſted, he ſhould have diſpoſed of his ſtock of merit, and made no doubt but he ſhould ſoon find himſelf

himſelf in the arms of ſome female, who would think herſelf amply repaid for her fortune, in the poſſeſſion of his perſon.

Accordingly, the firſt thing that was requiſite towards compleating this important project, was to find out a couſin whom he had been informed lived ſomewhere in London, and who having reſided ſome years in town, he ſuppoſed could inform him of the moſt expeditious means to accompliſh his deſires; and having made known to the waiter of the inn his deſire to find out his relation, the waiter adviſed him, as it was Sunday, to go to the Roman Catholick-chapel in Lincoln's-inn-fields, and make enquiry amongſt his countrymen whom he would find there; accordingly he immediately repaired thither, and to his great joy found a great number of his fellow

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ſons of Hibernia, and as a good omen of his future ſucceſs, and in confirmation of the witch's being acquainted with all the latent affairs that concerned him, he fortunately found his couſin in the very perſon he enquired of for him.

But before we introduce this gentleman to the reader, we beg leave to premiſe a few words that are not entirely foreign to the preſent buſineſs.---All profeſſions, trades, occupations, callings, and myſteries, now indiſcriminately claim the title of gentlemen,---We have not only gentlemen of the cloth, gentlemen of the faculty, gentlemen of the law, and gentlemen of the ſword; but we have likewiſe a new race of gentlemen,---A barber is become a gentleman of the comb; a ſhoemaker is a gentleman of the laſt; a coachman a gentleman of the whip;

a game-

a gameſter (not improperly) is a gentleman of fortune. Authors, according to Mr. Pope, are gentlemen of the feather, to diſtinguiſh them, we ſuppoſe, from the gentlemen of the law, who are likewiſe gentlemen of the quill; beſides innumerable gentlemen of the file. In ſhort, we now live in an age where every man is a gentleman, and every woman is a lady.

Our hero's new found relation, to introduce whom we have thus digreſſed was, in the language of the vulgar, a chairman; but we hope our readers will permit us to rank him amongſt the above genteel people; and call him a gentleman of the blue coat and ſtrap. This worthy gentleman, by name James Fitzpatrick, had been originally deſigned for an admiral; and was accordingly in his younger days ſent to ſea. But Mr. Fitzpatrick,

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after having continued amongſt the gentlemen of the rope, about thirty years, found that merit was not preferred, and that he was no nearer being an admiral than he was the firſt day he bound himſelf apprentice. --- Therefore he reſolved to leave the briny element, and endeavour to advance himſelf in ſome profeſſion upon terra firma; and accordingly, ſoon after came to London, with an intention to make his addreſſes to dame fortune in a new character: and in a ſhort time he fixed upon the blue coat and ſtrap, under which, and a leathern vehicle, he hoped to raiſe himſelf to ſome exalted ſtation. But unfortunately, he took ſo great a liking to entire butt beer, which he found at a place he uſed in the pariſh of Saint Paul, Covent-Garden, that he could ſcarce at the end of the year make both ends meet. However, he reſolv-

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ed to trot on, in hopes that ſomething would happen that might raiſe him up to grandeur and independence. In this expectation, he trotted away ſix years, but found the fickle gooddeſs was ſtill unkind; therefore he reſolved to make his addreſſes to her in ſome other ſhape. At the time he had made this reſolution, fortunately his couſin Braſs found him out, and our young adventurer having related to him the enterpriſe he was going upon, and having aſſured him, if he would engage in the ſame expedition, he ſhould ſhare half what the lady's fortune, whom he ſhould marry, produced, Fitzpatrick with great joy accepted the propoſal. And having agreed to join this great undertaking, Braſs related to him the particulars of his adventure with the witch, and obſerved, that what ſhe had foretold in regard to his firſt undertaking, was already

already fulfilled in the miraculous manner in which he found Fitzpatrick. Braſs having finiſhed his narration, Fitzpatrick declared he ſhould like to have ſome talk with the witch, and aſked Braſs if ſhe had ſaid any thing about him, but being anſwered in the negative; he aſſured Braſs there had not been a witch, or a gypſey, which, he ſaid, was all one, within ten miles of London, but he had been to conſult, and reckoned up three ſhillings and ſix-pence for fees to ſeven witches, within the laſt year, concluding, that as they all agreed he ſhould die very rich; it was a proof that they were very well acquainted with his affairs, and again heartily wiſhed he had ſome converſation with Braſs's witch, and ſwore he would have gone twenty miles to have talked with her.

It is now proper reader to give thee ſome idea of our hero Braſs's figure, and likewiſe the no leſs important perſonage Fitzpatrick. As Braſs was tall, and perfectly well made; Fitzpatrick was low, and not exquiſitely well ſhaped, being conſiderably more in circumference than in heigth. Braſs's features were extremly regular, and well proportioned, except that his noſe was ſomething of the longeſt, his complexion was clear, and excepting the badge of manhood upon his chin, his face was ſmooth. On the contrary, Fitzpatrick's features ſeemed to have been made by different hands, none of which could boaſt the moſt exquiſite workmanſhip, his complexion very ſtrongly reſembled the colour of a walnut-tree, and as he conſtantly kept a large quantity of tobacco in his left cheek, it raiſed ſuch a prominence there, that a ſtranger would

would have taken it for a wen, or imagined his mother had longed for a roaſted potatoe. Braſs's countenance diſcovered a manly boldneſs, blended with youthful ſoftneſs, being now in his twenty-ſecond year; Fitzpatrick's countenance was ſuch, as the moſt experienced phiſiognomiſt could not diſcover any meaning in. Braſs's legs were finely proportioned; if any fault could have been found with them, is was their being a little too thick. Fitzpatrick's legs were ſhort, thick and ſtrong, and too much inclining to a bow to be deemed very handſome; Fitzpatrick was now advancing faſt towards fifty years of age, and ſetting aſide his immoderate paſſion for entire butt beer, and ſome few unhappy prejudices he retained from his education, he was a very worthy man, though we will not ſay nature had deſigned him for a miniſter of ſtate, or that any one would

have ſuſpected him to be converſant in the black art. Having thus given the reader the outlines of our hero, and his kinſman Fitzpatrick, we will now proceed with them in their adventures, and endeavour to exhibit them at full length.

If Braſs was overjoyed with his good fortune in finding his couſin, he was not leſs pleaſed to find him engage ſo warmly in his expedition, and made no doubt with his aſſiſtance, but he ſhould ſoon reap the fruits of his hopes. As it was Sunday nothing could be undertaken till the next day, therefore they diſpoſed of the remainder of the day in planning out the moſt expeditious method they could take to arrive at the ſummit of their wiſhes. Fitzpatrick declared he was afraid they ſhould find more difficulty to ſteer clear of the

rocks that ſurrounded the port of good fortune, than ever was experienced in doubling the Cape of Good Hope; and was in ſome fear leſt before they had finiſhed their voyage, they ſhould be obliged to come to ſhort allowance. As Fitzpatrick had been an apprentice to an admiral near thirty years, thou wilt not be ſurpriſed reader, to find him expreſs himſelf ſometimes in the language peculiar to the gentlemen of the rope. However, we ſhall avoid repeating ſuch phraſes as are only underſtood by the above gentlemen, leſt we ſhould render ourſelves unintelligible to thee.

On the ſucceeding morning, Braſs and his couſin ſet out to the city of Monmouth, where they purchaſed a handſome ſuit of blue cloaths, adorned with a gold cord, and having likewiſe purchaſed ſome other requiſites, they

they again returned to the inn, where a ſkilful operator dreſt Braſs's hair in the higheſt taſte, and being at length compleatly dreſt, he ſtood aſtoniſhed at the handſome figure which the looking glaſs preſented to him; and to ſay the truth, if a woman could ever be excuſed for throwing herſelf and her fortune into the arms of a man for the enjoyment of his perſon, ſhe would now in her choice of Braſs be acquitted by a jury of the moſt rigid prudes.

Our hero being now adorned with the Inſignia of a gentleman, thought it requiſite to ſhape his carriage by the cut of his cloaths, conformable to the cuſtom of humble mechanics, who always change their air with their coat, and once in ſeven days convert the tradeſman into the man of taſte; and as Braſs was, from the juſt ſymmetry

and proportion of his limbs, naturally eaſy, and when we likewiſe conſider that he had ſerved above half an apprenticeſhip to a gentleman, it is not to be doubted but he was capable of aſſuming a graceful carriage.

Procraſtination not being amongſt the number of Fitzpatrick's failings, he had not neglected to procure Braſs a lodging, but as ſoon as he was dreſt Fitzpatrick conducted him to one in James-ſtreet, Covent-Garden, which from the elegance of the furniture was extremely agreeable to him, and was likewiſe the more ſo, as Fitzpatrick had hung his hammock, for he diſdained to lye in a bed) in a garret in the adjoining houſe.

It being now the ſeaſon for Vauxhall, where, in ſolitary groves, the languid virgin retires to breath in ſilence her amo-

amorous wiſhes, kindled by the warmth of youth and the love inſpiring month of May; Fitzpatrick reſolved to conduct Braſs to this place, hoping he might amongſt the gay crowd win the heart of ſome deſiring fair. Accordingly, on the next evening they ſet forward, Fitzpatrick giving his couſin all the inſtructions he was capable of, regarding his conduct and behaviour in the gardens, and having ſeen him ſafely in, repaired to a houſe where he knew was ſold an excellent tankard of porter, which would enable him to paſs away the time agreeably, till Braſs ſhould find it time to return to him, where we will leave him, and follow our hero into the circle of the polite.

CHAP. IV.

Which contains Braſs's adventure in Vauxhall.

BRASS being entered the gardens of Vauxhall, was ſtruck with wonder at the ſplendour of the gay aſſembly, and the vanity which his glaſs had inſpired him with, was now turned into a contempt of his appearance; but the viſible effeminacy of the greateſt part of the gay ſparks, oppoſed to his manly figure, created in him conſciouſneſs of his ſuperior merit in the field of love, which was the rule Braſs always meaſured merit by, and which perhaps, not without reaſon he imagined the greateſt part of the fair ſex did likewiſe; this reflection proving a powerful auxilliary to his

his native confidence, he mingled with the gay crowd that was gathered before the orcheſtre to hear a ſong, throwing himſelf into a poſture of deſigned careleſsneſs, as he ſaw many of the beſt dreſſed gentlemen do, judiciouſly converting their airs and manners in a glaſs, to ſhape the attitudes of his perſon by; and with the attention that an angler obſerves the float of his line, from which he exſpects to receive the ſignal to ſecure his prey, Braſs obſerved the eyes of the fair, from whom he expected to receive the ſignal of a conqueſt.

The ſong being ended, and the company beginning to diſperſe themſelves without Braſs's having received any intelligence from the empire of love, he reſolved to explore the more obſcure parts of the garden, in hopes to find ſome tender love ſick nymph,

and being arrived in a grove at ſome diſtance from the orcheſtre, he ſaw two ladies ſitting upon a bank by themſelves, and immediately concluded love had brought them there, and that they were two ſuch as he had juſt been wiſhing to meet with, though Braſs tacitly confeſſed he could diſpenſe with the abſence of one of them, well knowing a third perſon is not the moſt agreeable company where there is an intrigue: however, he determined to attack them both rather than loſe the opportunity, and immediately began to reconnnoitre them, for though he was not a novice in affairs of this kind, yet he concluded where the enemy was fortified with ſilks, and other ſuch ornaments, the approaches ſhould be carried on in a different manner than he had hitherto found neceſſary; accordingly, he walked backwards and forwards before them

them two or three times, and preſently found that one of the ladies roſe and retired, leaving her companion ſitting upon the bank. Braſs immediately ſeized the opportunity, and, like a true ſon of Hibernia, without giving the lady time to object to his company, ſeated himſelf by her. Whether the lady was really glad of his company, or had an inclination to ſee how far his impudence would carry him, (as ſome ladies have ſuffered their lovers almoſt to ſtrip them to gratify their curioſity in this point) we cannot abſolutely determine, but however it was, ſhe did not ſeem inclined to quit her ſeat, nor appeared to be diſpleaſed at his boldneſs, but politely joined in converſation with him; and after Braſs had gone through the uſual ceremony of proteſtations, and adorations, he reſolved to apply the prevailing rhetorick of a warm ſalute to

her lips, and the nymph not being of a coy diſpoſition, received it with leſs reluctance than he expected.

Our hero now concluded he had made a conqueſt of his companions heart, and thinking the flame he had kindled in the lady's breaſt, might expire for want of fuel, to ſupport it, he circled one of his arms around her waiſt, and endeavoured to introduce the other under her handkerchief; but here he met with a repulſe; however, being of the nation that is not eaſily put out of countenance, he ſtill preſevered, but on the lady's telling him ſhe would not permit ſuch rudeneſs, and that ſhe was willing to accompany him to a box, where they might be in public, Braſs deſiſted, and ſpringing up, immediately handed her to a box, being now very well aſſured there wanted nothing but the ſacred ceremony

mony to put him in poſſeſſion of her and her fortune, which he made no doubt, from the richneſs of her dreſs, was very conſiderable.

Our young adventurer and the lady being come to the light, Braſs was ſtruck with admiration to find how well her real charms correſponded with the compliments he made her in the dark. Claret being brought before them by the choice of the lady, they ſoon began to be very happy in each other's company, and a collation of the beſt the gardens afforded being ſerved, the beautiful nymph proved the goodneſs of her health, by the goodneſs of her appetite, and after ſupper declaring ſhe ſhould like to taſte what ſort of Champagin the place afforded, Braſs immediately ordered ſome to be brought, being not a little pleaſed to find the lady had ſo much politeneſs, as to de-

 clare

clare her inclinations, rather than embarraſs him to diſcover them.

Here the lovers ſtaid till midnight, and Braſs towards the cloſe of the evening, found the Claret and Champaign began to operate upon his head; but as the lady did not appear to be at all affected, though they had drank two bottles of Claret, and almoſt three of Champaign, Braſs attributed his being ſomething diſordered, to his not being accuſtomed to ſuch liquors, which he ſuppoſed the lady was. But ſtill keeping the grand affair in view, he concluded the beſt way to ſecure the lady's heart would be to have recourſe to the method which he had always found infallible, and which would at the ſame time gratify the amorous inclinations the wine had now ſtrongly inſpiried him with; accordingly, he ſignified by his eyes,

and

and other tacit informations his ardent deſires to the lady, and requeſted leave to conduct her home, which, after a feigned reluctance, ſhe at length granted him. Our young hero having gained this point, ideal grandeur floated in his imagination, and his heart dilated with joy.

Braſs now demanded to know what was to pay for the ſupper and wine, and was aſtoniſhed to hear it came to upwards of two guineas, but leſt his ſurprize ſhould betray his ignorance of the price of the Claret, and Champaign, he depoſited the money without coming to any explanation, and conducting the lady out of the gardens, a hackney coachman offered his ſervice: Braſs not having been accuſtomed to ſuch ſalutations, appeared much confounded, upon which the lady ordered him to bring his coach

up

up, and being both entered, the lady ordered him to drive to the Piazzas in Covent-Garden. Our adventurer now thought the money he had paid in the gardens well diſpoſed of, ſince he had purchaſed a woman of ſo large fortune as to keep an equipage.

The coach being arrived in Covent garden, ſtopped at a houſe well known to young gentlemen who have preſſing occaſions to repair thither. The two lovers entering this temple of love, and being ſhewn into a handſome apartment, the lady ordered a bowl of arrack to entertain her gallant with, having by this time diſcovered her ſpark was entirely ignorant both of the town and her profeſſion, and reſolved to ſuit her behaviour to the notions ſhe found Braſs had entertained of her being a lady of fortune.

Our

Our young hero was equally ſurprized and pleaſed, with the grandeur of every thing that ſurrounded him, and made no doubt if he could prevail upon this fair nymph to experience his merit, but he ſhould ſo ſtrongly fix her affections, that ſhe would without any heſitation, conſign herſelf and all her poſſeſſions into his cuſtody: ſtimulated by this reflection, and inflamed with the liquors he had drank, he began to make violent love to her, and ſhe gave him all the liberty to encreaſe his deſires, without giving him reaſon to imagine but that ſhe was yet a veſtal; and in the concluſion, Braſs had ſo far influenced her paſſions, as he imagined, that ſhe conſented to put herſelf into his poſſeſſion for the night, and left him, as ſhe ſaid, to ſee if the family were all gone to bed, and ſoon returned with the agreeable intelligence, that her mamma

and

and the ſervants were all retired to reſt; and counterfeiting all the feminine fears of a virgin on parting with her honour, ſhe tenderly begged her gallant would leave her while ſhe had power to requeſt it, and not bring her and her family to ruin and diſgrace: Braſs concluding this requeſt was the effects of maiden modeſty, or a ſpark of expiring virtue, eagerly claſped her to his breaſt, and begged ſhe would not think of his leaving her, proteſting nothing but death ſhould ever part them again; and ſo prevailing was his rhetorick, that ſhe had not power ſhe told him longer to delay their mutual happineſs; and immediately retired to an adjacent bed-chamber, telling him ſhe would give the ſignal of admiſſion. Braſs ſpent the tedious minutes in ſuming up the future happineſs of his life, and diſpoſing of the furniture, not forgetting the

equipage.

equipage. The lady at length giving him the ſignal of ſurrendering up her charms, he marched into the room and took poſſeſſion of the conquered fortreſs; where, reader, we will leave him, not being willing to diſturb him in the joys of love, or offend thee by a looſe relation of the myſteries of that night.

CHAP.

CHAP. V.

Wherein is related the lamentable diſcovery Braſs made in the Bagnio, with the particulars of an attempt made upon his chaſtity, and his behaviour thereon.

FITZPATRICK, whom our readers may remember we left at the alehouſe to wait for his couſin Braſs's return from the gardens, having drowned the melancholly reflection of being doomed to trot with his leathern vehicle, through the rugged path of life, and imbibed with copious draughts of entire butt, the ideal happineſs of ſoon being in poſſeſſion of every pleaſure that money could procure, he thought it neceſſary to regulate his future conduct, and methodize his life: accordingly,

cordingly, he employed himſelf in forming a plan to ſteer by, and ſoon diſpoſed of his chair, blue coat, ſtraps, and all the appurtenances belonging to his profeſſion; and having ſettled that point to his ſatisfaction, he next entered upon the diſtribution of half the lady's fortune whom his couſin ſhould marry; but finding it was an hour paſt midnight, and that the gardens were empty, he deferred coming to any reſolution upon ſo important a matter till a more convenient opportunity, and began now to be a little ſurprized his couſin did not return to him; however, he concluded he was gone in chace of ſome veſſel, which he made no doubt he would come up with, and that ſhe would prove a valuable prize, and reſolved immediately to ſteer home to his hammock, where we will leave him and return to Braſs.

In the morning, our young hero's fair paramour roſe from her lover, telling him ſhe was obliged to attend her mamma to breakfaſt, and begged he would not create a diſcovery of what had paſt, by riſing till ſhe ſhould come to acquaint him with the proper time; Braſs who had experienced the higheſt favour the lady had to beſtow, aſſured her he would remain a week without riſing, if ſhe would favour him with her company at night. The lady told him he might depend upon her coming to him as ſoon as poſſible, and having taken her leave of him, with the moſt tender expreſſions of love, left him to the pleaſures of imagination, and ideal felicity, which, as he concluded nothing remained to put him in poſſeſſion of a very conſiderable fortune but the ceremony of the prieſt, did not prove far ſhort of the raptures of the night.

Three

Three hours Braſs ſpent in contemplating the happineſs he ſuppoſed he was upon the point of enjoying, nor had thought his fair deſerter long at breakfaſt, but hunger now began to make him think her abſence long, and that it was late in the day. However, ſummoning together all the cauſes that might prevent her return to him, his partiality to her found him many reaſons for her delay. But two hours more having eſcaped without his future bride's having viſited him, and hunger beginning to be very impatient at the delay made to ſatisfy her demands, Braſs could not help venting a few innocent curſes againſt the young lady's mamma, and in proportion as the ſtrength of his appetite encreaſed, he roſe in the ſignificence of his curſes, and at length the craving of his ſtomach became ſo urgent, that they roſe to the moſt dreadful impre-

imprecations, and horrid threatnings, to ſtarve his mother-in-law to death. By the time Braſs had almoſt exhauſted his breath with curſing the old lady, the waiter of the bagnio entered, and acquainted him it was almoſt ſix o'clock. Braſs, whoſe heart had bounded with joy upon hearing the door open, was ſtruck dumb with ſurprize to hear the lateneſs of the day pronounced by a man; the waiter wondering he had not been anſwered, repeated the time of the day, and enquired if his honour would pleaſe to get up; Braſs concluded it was a ſervant in the houſe who had miſtaken the room, and that the terms he had addreſſed him in were deſigned for his father-in-law; however, he determined to take this opportunity to gain ſome intelligence of his bride, and aſked the waiter if his young lady was gone out, the waiter replied,

the

the lady he came in with had been gone ſix or ſeven hours; Braſs next aſked if ſhe went out with her mamma; the waiter told him he did not know her mamma, and that ſhe had never been in the houſe before. Theſe anſwers confounded Braſs much, and the waiter ſaying he hoped he had not been impoſed upon, our hero began to awaken from his golden dream, and eagerly enquired if the young lady he came in with, was not the daughter of the fat lady he had ſeen the night before; the waiter aſſured him of the contrary, ſaying, ſhe was a woman of the town, and that he was in a bagnio. Immediately Braſs leaped from the bed, calling upon the devil to burn the ſoul of her and all her generation; and in ſullen ſilence immediately began to dreſs himſelf. His unhappy diſappointment, the great diminution of his fortune from this

adven-

adventure, and his being ignorant where to find Fitzpatrick, or the name of the ſtreet where he lodged, being the ſubjects of his meditations. Being at length dreſſed, the waiter told him there was fifteen ſhillings to pay for the expences of the houſe; Braſs with an oath declared he would not pay a farthing of it; the waiter aſſured him his miſtreſs would not loſe her reckoning, and deſired him to pay the bill and make the beſt of the affair.--- Whether Braſs reſolved to take the waiter's advice or not, we cannot ſay, but putting his hand in his pocket, the colour immediately vaniſhed from his cheeks, and ſtaring at the waiter in ſilent amazement, at length ſwore by the ſoul of his father, the devil's daughter had robbed him of every farthing of his money. This diſcovery produced a profuſion of long winded curſes, filling the room with

brimſtone

brimſtone and other combuſtibles from the fiery regions below, inſomuch that the waiter, to prevent ſuffocation, departed the room, leaving Braſs to breathe the ſulphureous air he had raiſed by himſelf. Our unfortunate adventurer having conſigned the young lady, Vauxhall, and the bagnio, all to the Devil, his ſuppoſed mother-in-law, the landlady of the houſe, entered the room.

This lady had now entered into that year of her age which is deemed by ſome to be very critical, and which, reader, thou mayeſt come to the knowledge of by ſeeking the produce of ſeven times nine. But alas, how ſhall we give thee an idea of the perſon of this venerable matron, for it is not in our power to reſemble her figure to any thing thou haſt ever ſeen, read, or heard of, for ſurely,

" her likeneſs was neither in the heavens above, the earth beneath, or in the waters under the earth." In ſhort, ſhe was deemed the fatteſt woman of her profeſſion, within the confines of Covent-Garden, or the hundreds of Drury, and when thou art informed that ſhe increaſed in weight at the rate of a ſcore of pounds every year, from the age of fifty, to her preſent age of ſixty-three, thou mayeſt then form ſome idea of her preſent magnitude and figure. As ſoon as this reſpectable lady had entered the room, ſhe ſeated herſelf upon the bed; but leſt, reader, thou ſhouldeſt entertain a notion that ſhe placed herſelf there with any wicked deſign, we think it proper to aſſure thee that it was only to prevent the danger of maiming a chair. The waiter having delivered to his miſtreſs, before ſhe came up, his opinion of the

ſtrength

ſtrength of our hero's intellects, ſhe, from the knowledge of her waiter's great perſpicuity, immediately concluded, from the old ſaying, that fools have fortune, that Braſs was a man of fortune. The lady having recovered her breath from toiling up the ſtairs, condoled with Braſs upon his misfortune, and enquired how much he had loſt; Braſs told her he had loſt eight guineas, (for he now ſat down the money he had ſpent at Vauxhall, as loſt,) and which was all the money he had left out of the twenty guineas he had when he ſet out from Ireland, the remainder having been diſburſed in travelling charges, and purchaſing the external parts of his gentility. The landlady declared ſhe did not like his choice when ſhe firſt come in, and that ſhe wondered why ſhe would not let any body attend them to bed, adding, if he had come by himſelf,

ſhe would have provided him a girl that ſhould not have coſt him half the money. Braſs, during the landlady's ſpeech, was walking up and down the room, ſullenly meditating upon his preſent ſituation and the loſs of his fortune. The lady, as he ſtept, could not help admiring his firm knit limbs, breadth of ſhoulders, and the manly vigour which was blended with his youth, and finding Braſs was too much employed in contemplation to join in any converſation, ſhe proteſted the weather was ſo warm that ſhe would take the liberty to pull her ſtays off, if Braſs had no objection. Our unhappy adventurer was ſtill indulging his melancholly reflections, and had not attended to any thing his landlady had ſaid; but preſently caſting his eyes towards her, he ſaw her remove the ſtiff ſupporters of thoſe parts of the fair ſex, which when ſeen by men inſtantly

inſtantly give birth to deſire, or elſe create diſguſt; and as we can only judge of the effect this action had upon Braſs, but from the effect it had upon his countenance, we from thence conclude it created the latter. The lady having freed herſelf from the incumberance of her ſtays, adviſed Braſs not to lament the loſs of a few guineas ſo much, and kindly requeſted him to ſit down by her; but Braſs ſtill continued in his melancholly reſverie, and kept walking with ſuch a pace, as if he intended to overtake his fugitive fortune; the landlady finding him wholly taken up with contemplation, ſunk into a careleſs lol upon the bed, which was entirely covered by the breadth of its load; for ſometime the lady indulged her limbs upon the ſoft bed, and her eyes with ſurveying Braſs as he walked before her; but preſently recovering herſelf

from the reclined poſture, ſhe gently lifted up a thin white dimity petticoat, and looſed one of her garters. ---And here we hope our readers will not think we treſpaſs upon truth, or that they will arraign the virtue of this venerable lady, for in our opinion there is nothing indecent in a lady's tying up her garter before a gentleman, when the ſtocking is clean, as we can aſſure our readers this lady's was. Braſs, fearful of offending the lady, avoided as much as poſſible obſerving her leg, during the ceremony of her tying her garter; but notwithſtanding, he could not help ſeeing it as he paſſed her, yet we can aſſure our readers, it did not create the leaſt indecent thought, but he ſtill continued his perambulation up and down the room, without having any vicious inclination. The lady having ſettled her garter to her mind, ſuddenly changed

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the ſoftneſs of her former carriage to an angry tone of voice, and riſing from the bed, demanded to be paid her bill, and that Braſs ſhould go about his buſineſs. Our hero being rouſed by this ſummons, could not help uttering ſome very diſreſpectful words, both of her and her houſe, and concluded with ſwearing by the Almighty heavens, he neither could nor would pay her a farthing. The landlady being now enraged, told him he was a poor ſpirited fellow, and that if he had behaved himſelf as a man ſhould do to her, ſhe might have forgiven him the reckoning; but as he had not, ſhe ſaid, ſhe would find means to make him pay it, and inſtantly departed the room. The conſequences of this lady's reſolution we will refer to the next chapter. But before we conclude this, we think it neceſſary, in ſupport of this lady's chaſtity, to

declare, that we believe the ſudden change of her diſpoſition, aroſe from a ſudden recollection of the money due to her from Braſs, and not from a diſappointment of any looſe wiſhes being gratified, as ſome of our readers may poſſibly imagine.

CHAP.

CHAP. VI.

The adventures in the Bagnio continued.

THE eldeſt ſon of the ancient family of brogue-makers, finding the bloſſoms of his future gentility, which in the preceding evening had bloomed ſo luxuriantly, were in the ſpace of one night entirely blaſted by the cruel hand of diſappointment, and that want and indigence had ſucceeded fancied affluence, again invoked the powers who reſide in the ſulphureous regions, to ſend a ſhower of fireworks upon the authoreſs of his misfortunes, and concluded with wiſhing he had been amongſt the infernals, when he had firſt taken the Devil's daughter for a lady of fortune.

Braſs having thus given vent to the volcano in his breaſt, the waiter entered the room, and told him his miſtreſs inſiſted upon being paid her bill, adviſing him at the ſame time to ſend for ſome of his acquaintance; but little did he imagine all his acquaintance (except his couſin Fitzpatrick) lived in the province of Munſter. Braſs declared to the gentleman with the toweled head, that he would not ſend for any body, and that his miſtreſs was an old ----- what we will not ſtain the paper with the mention of, but which, reader, we can aſſure thee was not a term that ſignified ſhe was a woman of chaſtity.

The landlady, who had attended her deputy as far as the door, hearing the epithet Braſs had diſgraced her with, entered the room, and burying her arms in her ſides, walked up to him,

him, and aſked him how he durſt accuſe her of the failing he had, and ſaid it was well known ſhe had been a woman of virtue and reputation, almoſt a dozen years, and that if ſhe had been given to ſuch a failing in her youth, yet ſhe had left it off when ſhe was in the prime of her life, not being above fifty years of age; and concluded with ſaying, that he of all people had no reaſon to reproach her with ſuch a thing; then Braſs, who perhaps had conſtrued the lady's pulling off her ſtays, and exhibiting her leg before him to the diſadvantage of her chaſtity, called upon the devil to burn him, if he did not believe the ſins of her youth had returned to her when ſhe was laſt in the room with him, and pointed to her ſtays which were then lying upon the bed, to corroborate his opinion.

The landlady, than whom no veſtal could boaſt more chaſtity, ſince the day ſhe abandoned proſtitution and recovered her virtue, now glowed with virtuous indignation, and addreſſing herſelf to the waiter, proteſted the ſtays had lain there ever ſince the day before, when ſhe called him up to aſſiſt her to pull them off. How far the waiter was concerned in this diſpute we cannot undertake to ſay, but certain it is, his countenance declared he was much chagrined.

Braſs, with a voice that ſounded much like the oracle of truth, again made oath of what he had aſſerted, and as a farther evidence of all her former failings having again viſited her, he referred to the ceremony of her tying up her ſtocking in the indecent manner, as he called it, ſhe had, and offered to give his ſoul as bail to the

the Devil, to prove ſhe had conceived a wicked deſign upon his perſon. The waiter now ſignified, by a reproachful look to the landlady, that he was convinced of the truth of the premiſſes.

The lady, conſcious of the innocence of her intention, and finding the tremendous weapon of her ſex, was too weak to ſupport the juſtice of her cauſe, had next recourſe to her nails, and if ſuperiority in number of witneſſes could have caſt the plaintiff, ſhe would certainly have gained the cauſe, for ſhe produced no leſs than ten upon the face of Braſs, who all gave teſtimony of her innocence in ſtreams of blood. Braſs feeling the power of the defendant's witneſſes, and fearing they might deprive him of the advantage he had gained, inſtantly referred to manual proofs to enforce the truth of his allegation, and threw his female antagoniſt

niſt upon the bed with ſuch force, that the whole houſe trembled from the ſhock, and unfortunately the lady fell in ſuch a manner, that the part where, in men, the ſeat of honour is ſuppoſed to be lodged, lay expoſed to view without the leaſt covering; the waiter finding Braſs had ſubpœnaed illegal witneſſes to his aid, immediately took the part of his miſtreſs, and aimed a blow at Braſs's face, which, however, fell upon his arm; Braſs inſtantly cloſing with the waiter, threw him upon the white mountains that lay expanded over the bed, which being cavernous ſent forth various ſounds. The waiter, upon his riſing, ſeeing Braſs ſtood collected to receive him, deemed his muſcular ſyſtem too powerful for him to ſubdue, therefore declined farther combat, and aſſiſted the landlady to re-cover her legs, which having with ſome difficulty effected,

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he left the room and locked the door, leaving Braſs and the landlady to decide the controverſy by themſelves, and what prevented them from renewing their altercation, during the waiter's abſence, we cannot poſitively aſſert; but ſo it was, a total ſilence ſucceeded the waiter's departure, and Braſs once more meaſured the length of the room by the number of his ſtrides, while the landlady ſettled the œconomy of her head, the ornaments having been all diſplaced in her late overthrow.

In a ſhort time the waiter returned, and introduced a chairman, whom he ordered to aſſiſt him to conduct Braſs before a juſtice, for an aſſault upon the landlady, and intending to bilk the houſe. As when the lion, who, at the time when he was brought into the amphitheatre in Rome to devour a cer-

a certain malefactor, is recorded to have recognized the perſon of him, who had ſome years before taken refuge in his cave, and freed him from a thorn that feſtered his paw, and inſtead of deſtroying him as the ſpectators expected, manifeſted his gratitude by fawning and licking his feet; ſo the chairman, when he beheld Braſs, and was ordered to ſeize him, recognized the perſon of his couſin, and by friendly ſhakes of his hand, greeted his relation.

Braſs, when he ſaw his beloved couſin Fitzpatrick, for ſo, reader, the chairman was, burſt into an exclamation of joy, and hailed this worthy branch of the ancient ſtock of broguemakers.

Fitzpatrick, after their mutual ſalutations were ended, looking attentively

tively upon Braſs's face, where the opprobrious marks of the landlady's nails were imprinted, told him his face was ſtreaked with red and white, like the lining of his chair.

Braſs, who was not at this time in a humour to receive raillery, with that pleaſure he would have received a ſummons to a beef ſtake of two or three pounds, for by this time his frighted appetite had once more gained the aſcendant over his other conſiderations; ſullenly replied, the ſtripes on his face were the marks of that mountain of fat, pointing to the landlady, who in great rage, ſaid ſhe was no more a mountain of fat than the woman who bore him was, and, taking up her ſtays, referred them to Fitzpatrick to determine whether he thought they belonged to ſo extraordinary a fat woman or not.

We have before hinted, that this lady was in very good caſe, but however, we cannot ſay ſhe was of ſo extraordinary a magnitude, as he within whoſe waiſtcoat ſeven men it was ſaid were buttoned. Nay it is our opinion, that no more than five common ſized women could have been laced in this lady's ſtays, and Fitzpatrick declared he thought they were of a very good ſize; however, Braſs did not ſeem to recant what he had ſaid, and had it not been for the good offices of Fitzpatrick, it is our opinion the merits of this cauſe, like the laſt, would have been decided by manual teſtimony.

Fitzpatrick having pacified the landlady, and by his judicious manner of behaviour, gained a ſmall portion of her favour, ſhe recounted to him every circumſtance that had ſucceeded Braſs's coming into the houſe, to the time

time of her unhappy overthrow upon the bed, and concluded with an oath, and which we are ſorry truth obliges us to ſay, was not of the feminine gender, that ſhe would be paid her bill before Braſs left the houſe, and, attended by the waiter, immediately left the room.

Fitzpatrick having received the unwelcome tidings of the departure of his couſin's fortune, and with it all his hopes of quitting the ſtrap, ſent a choice collection of curſes after it, and hoped they would at leaſt overtake the daughter of Satan for ſtopping their progreſs to gentility; and and after he had wiſhed himſelf, for directing Braſs to Vauxhall, and the young lady who had obliged his couſin with her company at ſupper, both in an everlaſting hot birth, Braſs took the liberty to acquaint him that he had

had not eat any thing ſince the laſt night at the Devil's rendezvous.

Fitzpatrick having gently cenſured Braſs for neglecting to obſerve his advice in his cruize, concluded, that as it was done it could not now be helped. Braſs aſſented to this laſt obſervation, and again declared that, in ſhort, he muſt eat.

Fitzpatrick, taking into conſideration the ſtate of affairs, began to ruminate upon ways and means how to extricate his couſin out of the houſe of bondage, and allay the cravings of his appetite; and preſently filling his mouth with a freſh quid of tobacco, without uttering a word, left Braſs to his reflections.

CHAP.

CHAP. VII.

Fitzpatrick releaſes Braſs out of the Bagnio; with his ſecond Adventure.

BRASS having ſo unexpectedly found his couſin Fitzpatrick, he began to recover his wonted ſpirits, and hope of gentility again beamed upon his mind, diſpelling the gloomy vapours of melancholy, and the remembrance of his misfortune; and, deſcanting upon his perſonal merit, joy once more took her ſeat in his countenance, and chaſed away deſpair.

In half an hour Fitzpatrick returned and appeared before his couſin in a red waiſtcoat; Braſs immediately enquired what he had done with his coat; but Fitzpatrick bid him not

not mind that, and produced a couple of guineas.

Our readers as well as Braſs, we make no doubt, are deſirous of knowing why Fitzpatrick appeared without his coat; poſſibly he had ſlipped it off that it might not retard him in the progreſs of his expedition; or perhaps the warmth of the weather had induced him to throw it aſide; but theſe are only our own conjectures, we not being acquainted with the real cauſe.

A conſultation being held, it was thought moſt proper that Fitzpatrick ſhould diſcharge the bill, leſt the preſence of Braſs ſhould enflame the good lady's reſentment, and cauſe her to recollect the reproachful manner he had ſpoke of her virtue, and likewiſe diſgraced the delicacy of her figure; accordingly

cordingly Fitzpatrick diſcharged the ſecurity which had bound Braſs's perſonal eſtate, and then they both repaired to Braſs's lodgings, where he releaſed himſelf from another importunate dun, paying both principal and intereſt due to his ſtomach from the preceding night.

The next day Fitzpatrick began to overhall the damages from the laſt cruize, and declared that after Braſs's hair had been ſpliced, and his legs new rigged, the ſhip would be fit to put to ſea again. As for what damage may be done in the hold, ſays he, that will not effect the ſhip theſe two or three days, if there ſhould be any; though, adds he, if ſhe ſhould have received a ſhot betwixt wind and water, ſhe may perhaps be obliged to go into dock for three or four weeks. And concluded with obſerving it would be proper they ſhould imme-

immediately prepare for a ſecond cruize before their ammunition ſhould be expended, to which Braſs very willingly aſſented, and being ſoon dreſt, Fitzpatrick convoyed him to Ranelagh, bidding him be ſure to keep clear of all ſuch frigates as he had fell foul upon at Vauxhall; and being ſafely arrived at Ranelagh, Fitzpatrick took leave of his couſin, giving him directions where he might find him.

Braſs being entered the rotunda, ſurveyed with aſtoniſhment the magnificence of this circle of taſte, but fearing this ſurprize ſhould proclaim him a ſtranger, he recalled his ſcattered ſenſes, and immediately joined the gay aſſembly in their circular tour, feaſting his eyes with the ſight of ſome of the moſt beautiful women in Europe.

Here too our Hibernian adventurer could not refrain from making a compariſon betwixt himſelf and the gentlemen who had the envied pleaſure of accompanying the ladies, greatly in his own favour, and ardently wiſhed to enter the liſts, where beauty and fortune were the reward of that excellence which he deemed the criterion of merit.

Almoſt two hours our young hero traverſed the rotunda, without having wounded a ſingle female heart, and being of an impatient diſpoſition, he began to deſpair of making a conqueſt that evening, but the muſick beginning once more to ſummon the company to a ſong, he determined inſtead of mixing with the auditors as before, to take that opportunity to reconnoitre the boxes, and he ſoon diſcovered there were many amorous plans concerted

in the parts of the rotunda which were remote from the orcheſtre.

Braſs having thus happily found the rendezvous of love, his ſpirits began to revive and with them his hopes of future gentility, and keeping a careful look out, he at length ſaw a feeble old gentleman accompanied by a blooming young lady, who ſeemed to be ſomething turned of twenty, enter one of the boxes; the old gentleman having as he ſtood to hear the ſong, been ſeized with a fit of coughing, retired hither to avoid interrupting the muſick.

Braſs concluded the young lady was the old gentleman's daughter, and from the richneſs of her dreſs, made no doubt but the old gentleman's coffers were well ſtored with the requiſites he was in ſearch of, therefore he imme-

immediately ſeated himſelf in the next box to them, and preſently alarmed the lady by an expreſs from his eyes, with the news of a dreadful fire having broke out within his breaſt, and that the furniture would be conſumed unleſs ſhe aſſiſted him to extinguiſh it; but not having received any ſatisfactory anſwer, he continued a repetition of the intelligence, and at length perceived that his meſſengers had communicated the fire to the lady, and from many circumſtances he obſerved, he found the fire was got among the combuſtibles.

During this ſympathetic conflagration, the old gentleman had laid his head upon the table to recover his breath from the fit of coughing, but a ſhort elderly lady ſoon entering the box and enquiring how he did, the old gentleman lifted up his head and

declared he was much better, and that he ſhould be able to walk again preſently.

Braſs at firſt was under ſome apprehenſions that the arrival of this lady would ſtop the progreſs of the flame he had kindled in the young lady; but he ſoon found his fears were groundleſs, and that the fire had fell upon a part that was not ſo eaſy to be quenched: Braſs having thus kindled with falſe fire real heat, began to meditate how he ſhould purſue the advantage he had gained; but on a ſudden was ſurprized with the appearance of a fire having broke out within the other lady, and the old gentleman at the ſame time ſignifying his deſire to walk, both the ladies ſignified their reluctance to leave the box, by their ſilence, but at length the young lady proteſted ſhe was quite tired, and that ſhe would

ſit there and ſee the company paſs. The other lady declared ſhe had been walking ſo much that ſhe was quite fatigued. The old gentleman, a little peeviſhly, deſired one of them would accompany him, but neither of them ſeemed inclined to obey the ſummons, but with a profound ſilence kept their ſeats.

The young lady at length muttered that if ſome people's wiſdom was equal to their years, they would not make themſelves ſo ridiculous as they did, and that ſhe was not ſo blind but that ſhe could ſee the reaſon why ſome people were ſo much fatigued. The old lady reddening ſaid it was no difficult matter to gueſs why ſome people were ſo deſirous of ſeeing the company from that box particularly, and believed ſhe had as good eyes as other people. The young lady replied, ſhe believed ſome folks had a better opi-

nion of their eyes and every thing elſe, than any body elſe had.

The old gentleman, who did not poſſeſs the ſenſe of ſight in ſo exquiſite a manner as either of theſe ladies, aſked what the devil was the matter with them, and what there was to be ſeen. The old lady ſaid, for her part ſhe had ſeen what ſhe did not chooſe to mention, adding, what miſtreſs impertinence had ſeen ſhe did not know. The young lady anſwered, ſhe could not tell what ſhe might have ſeen, but for her part ſhe had ſeen ſomething very unbecoming ſome people's age. The old gentleman declared he believed the devil had appeared to them both, and laid his commands upon them to accompany him; neither of the ladies thought proper to reſiſt this injunction, but each giving Braſs a look that expreſſed their ſorrow to leave

leave him, they joined the old gentleman and made a ſilent march round the rotunda.

Braſs was no ſtranger to the cauſe of the altercation betwixt theſe ladies; but was at a loſs to know what degree of kindred the old lady was in to the old gentleman, and was under great fear ſhe might be his wife, reſolving to make an acquaintance with them both. However he flattered himſelf ſhe was his ſiſter; and indeed if ſhe had been his grandmother, Braſs in his preſent circumſtances would have ſummoned the old lady to ſurrender, if he failed in his deſign upon the young one. However he reſolved to follow them, and wait for ſome opportunity to gain farther intelligence; and preſently ſeeing the old lady retire into one of the boxes, Braſs concluded it

was a fair challenge, and immediately followed her.

Having paid his compliments, the lady ſaid ſhe had obſerved him to pay a very particular attention to her ſince he had firſt ſeen her, and therefore ſhe had given him that opportunity to declare himſelf. Braſs immediately declared love to her perſon, and in ſo prevailing a manner, that ſhe ſeemed to liſten to him with pleaſure, and the luſtre of her eyes encreaſed, as Braſs's proteſtations roſe; and after he had exhauſted his breath and all his ſtock of compliments, the lady replied, there was no truſting men, and ſaid ſhe ſhould be ſorry to be the cauſe of any man's unhappineſs, and proteſted if ſhe had thought her eyes would have occaſioned the pains he felt, ſhe would not have entered the rotunda upon any account. Braſs aſ-

ſure-

ſured her they had kindled a fire in his breaſt, which nothing but her ſweet ſelf could extinguiſh, and ſeizing her hand, convinced her at once of the heat of his paſſion, and the ſtrength of his ſinews.

By this time the old gentleman and the other lady were come in ſight, which the lady ſeeing, begged Braſs would retire, as, ſhe ſaid, their being ſeen together might create ſuſpicion, and added, if his proteſtations were ſincere he would find means to convince her of it, when there was not ſo much danger of interruption.

Braſs, after aſſuring the lady he would find an opportunity to convince her of the reality of his paſſion, retired, and inſtantly went in ſearch of his friend and counſellor, Fitzpatrick, and having acquainted him with

all the circumſtances of the adventure, Fitzpatrick ſwore he believed ſhe would be a good prize, and deſired Braſs would follow her out and give him the ſignal, and declared he would cruize in ſight of her all night, but he would ſee where ſhe was bound for. Accordingly Braſs returned to watch their motions, and Fitzpatrick called for another pot upon the ſtrength of the prize.

Soon after Braſs was returned into the rotunda, a waiter ſtept up to him and told him a gentleman deſired he would do him the favour to let him know where a letter might be directed to him: this requeſt amazed Braſs much, and created various conjectures in his mind, but at length he concluded ſome rival had obſerved his intimacy with the lady in the box, and wanted to receive ſatisfaction, and deem-

deeming himſelf as capable of giving ſatisfaction by the ſtrength of his arm to his rival, as he did of performing the duty of a lover to his miſtreſs, determined to oblige the gentleman, and recollecting the name of the inn where he had firſt taken up his quarters, he told the waiter the gentleman might ſend to Mr. Benjamin Braſs at the Blue Boar in Holborn, and he might be ſure he would meet him at his own time and place.

Having given the waiter this direction, he proceeded in ſearch of the two ladies and gentleman, and juſt gained ſight of them as they were leaving the rotunda, and immediately followed them out to apprize Fitzpatrick of their motions.

Fitzpatrick having charged his memory with every one of their faces,

and ſeeing them take coach, took upon himſelf to bring Braſs an account where they were bound for, and having likewiſe filled his mouth with a freſh handful of mundungus, ſteered after the coach, leaving Braſs overjoyed with the proſpect of this adventure.

CHAP.

CHAP. VIII.

Wherein is related how Fitzpatrick was poſſeſſed with an Evil Spirit.

UPON Fitzpatrick's departure after the coach, Braſs bent his ſteps towards his lodging, which after much difficulty he at length gained. Here he ſat and indulged the pleaſures of imagination, every minute expecting Fitzpatrick to bring him intelligence of his having ſeen the coach ſtop at a houſe whoſe appearance confirmed they were people of great fortune. But two hours having elapſed without bringing Fitzpatrick, and it being paſt midnight, he began to be amazed at his long abſence, and having waited, in great uneaſineſs and anxiety, till it was day break, without Fitzpatrick's returning, he reſolved to retire

retire to bed and ſuſpend his expectations of ſeeing him till his uſual hour of riſing in the morning. Where we will for a while leave him and ſee what is become of Fitzpatrick.

Little doſt thou imagine, reader, unleſs thou haſt the gift of foreſight, that Fitzpatrick was toiling up Highgate Hill, at twelve o'clock at night, after the coach which he ſuppoſed carried his couſin's bride; but however we can aſſure thee, that ſuch was his perſevering diſpoſition, that he was really trotting amidſt a cloud of duſt with his waiſtcoat hanging over his arm, after a coach that was by this time arrived near Highgate.

Sometimes thou mighteſt have ſeen him cloſe up to the tail of the coach, but on a ſudden ſmack of the coachman's whip, the horſes mended their pace,

pace, and then thou mighteſt have ſeen him a quarter of a mile behind following it by his ear, and it is our opinion that, by virtue of his eyes and ears, he would have followed it as far as Cheſter had it been going thither.

Fitzpatrick having exerted himſelf at the expence of ſome hundred drops of ſweat for the laſt half mile, happily entered Highgate with the coach, and expected to ſee it ſtop at every large houſe they came to; at length it ſtopt at a large pair of gates, and Fitzpatrick retired to the oppoſite ſide of the way, and having put on his waiſtcoat ſtood to ſee whether the company went in or not. The coachman having deſcended from the box opened the door and forth came, not the two ladies and the old gentleman, whom he had ſeen get in at Ranelagh---but

two

two footmen. Fitzpatrick upon beholding the two footmen ſtood motionleſs with his eyes fixed upon them, ſcrewing up his eyes to contract the rays to a point, and ſometimes looking at them with a broad ſtare, and having wiped away the duſt, which he ſuppoſed clouded his ſight, without its producing any alteration, he imagined he was in a dream, and giving his noſe a good tweak, he found by the ſenſe of the ſmart that he was really awake. Upon which he took into ſerious conſideration the amazing change that had been made within the coach, betwixt Ranelagh and Highgate, and concluded the transformation muſt have been made by ſome evil ſpirit, and recollecting Braſs's adventure with the witch, he ſuppoſed ſhe was coming to London, and that ſhe was concerned in it, and began to have a notion that not only the coach-

man

man and footmen, but that the coach itſelf were all evil ſpirits.

The truth is, Fitzpatrick had taken ſuch frequent draughts of the evil ſpirit of gin and porter, during the time he was at the ale-houſe waiting for Braſs, that in Fleet-ſtreet he had miſtaken this coach for that which he ſhould have followed, by which means he had taken this unexpected journey.

Fitzpatrick being convinced that Braſs's witch, or ſome other of the Devil's imps, was upon Highgate road that night, turned about and trotted homewards, in deep meditation upon ſo extraordinary an affair, and having returned back about two miles, it came into his head that he was ſtill poſſeſſed, and that inſtead of returning to London he was going to Barnet,

and

and having looked both ways for ſome time, he at length reaſoned his eyes into the ſame opinion: having thus perſuaded himſelf and his eyes that he was going to Barnet, he turned about and once more ſat forward to Highgate, ſaying the Lord's Prayer backwards, having heard that was a ſovereign remedy for thoſe who are poſſeſſed with an evil ſpirit: but ſoon finding that praying had not prevailed over the power of the fiend, but that he was again got to Highgate, he next had recourſe to his uſual methods in caſe of the failure of prayers, and accordingly ſtood in the middle of the town curſing, wiſhing himſelf, his couſin Braſs, Ranelagh, the coach, and every one he had ſeen get into it, and likewiſe the witch, all at the Devil.

Having

Having very deliberately performed this ceremony, he applied himſelf to his faithful friend the tobacco-box, determining to recruit his mouth and ſpirits with a freſh handful of that exhilerating plant, but not being able to find it, he concluded the Devil had made free with it, and that it was gone to that place where he ſuppoſed it was by this time red hot.

Fitzpatrick having lamented this loſs in his uſual manner with curſes, to his great joy diſcovered the cauſe of all his misfortunes; for taking notice of his waiſtcoat, he found he had put it on the wrong ſide outwards, and was preparing to turn it again, but remembering that the Devil had picked his pocket of his tobacco-box, he was under ſome doubt whether he had not bewitched his waiſtcoat, and putting

ting it to his noſe to find whether he could ſmell any traces of Satan's fingers, he thought it ſmelt of brimſtone, and reſolved not to venture it upon his back again, and was very near throwing it into the ditch. However, he at length reſolved to carry it home, and accordingly putting it over his arm, he again ſat forward for London, where he arrived by four o'clock in the morning, without being farther moleſted by the foul fiend. Having at length brought Fitzpatrick ſafe to London again, we will now return to our hero.

Early the next morning Braſs aroſe, golden dreams and deluſive ſplendour having been his companions, and indicated pleaſing news from his ambaſſador Fitzpatrick, whom he now expected with joyful tidings from the empire of love. But twelve o'clock

at

at noon being arrived without Fitzpatrick's return, he was aſtoniſhed beyond expreſſion. For though he allowed there might be many weighty reaſons for his not returning the laſt night, yet he could not find one probable cauſe of his abſence all the morning; and at length concluded ſome extraordinary circumſtance muſt detain him. This thought preſently gave birth to the probability of his having broke a leg or an arm, which ſoon roſe to the poſſibility of his having broke his neck.

Braſs having entertained theſe ſanguinary notions, imagined he was ſole heir to his couſin, and immediately began to make an eſtimate of the fortune that was to come to him, and having taken poſſeſſion of the chair, and every thing elſe he had ſeen in his couſin's poſſeſſion, Fitzpatrick in his proper

proper perſon appeared before him, without any ſign of his having diſlocated his neck, or riſen from the dead.

Fitzparick entring the room with a, holla boy, in his uſual manner, aſked Braſs if he had not thought he had foundered at ſea, or been taken by pyrates. Braſs being impatient to know where the coach had ſat down his intended bride, was inſenſible to every other conſideration, and never troubled himſelf to enquire into the particular circumſtances of his long abſence, but eagerly aſked, if he had ſeen the coach ſet the ladies down at their houſe. Fitzpatrick declared he had, and that he would ſteer him to the ſame port; adding, he believed they were merchant-men, and from their rigging, ſaid he ſuppoſed they were richly laden. Braſs rejoiced to hear theſe tidings, and ſo impatient was he to take

take poſſeſſion of the rich merchandize, that he propoſed they ſhould immediately make an attack, to which Fitzpatrick aſſented, and accordingly in his red waiſtcoat, to which he was again reconciled, led the van.

It will be proper here to let our readers know where Fitzpatrick intended to conduct Braſs, and likewiſe the reaſon of his abſence all the morning.

Fitzpatrick having ſlept away the evil ſpirit that confounded his ſenſes, and not being willing to let Braſs into the ſecret of his nocturnal expedition to Highgate, and being extreamly deſirous to ſhare part of this lady's fortune, reſolved to enquire among the gentlemen of the whip, what coaches had been at Ranelagh on the laſt even-

ing;

ing; and having ſpent almoſt all the morning in viſiting the ſeveral ſtands of coaches, he at length met with a coachman who informed him that he had carried two ladies and a gentleman on the preceding evening from Ranelagh to a certain hall in the city.

The warmth of Fitzpatrick's imagination, which made him at all times and upon all occaſions, convert every thing that had the leaſt reſemblance to what he wiſhed it to be, into an abſolute certainty of its being really ſo, now made him conclude he had been ſucceſsful in his ſearch, for it never entered into his head, that it was poſſible they might be any other company than that which he was in ſearch of, and having learnt where the coachman had ſet his fare down, was immediately returning with the intelligence to Braſs, without making any en-

enquiry into particulars. But the coachman happening to aſk him how he was certain his fare was the ſame company as he was enquiring for. Fitzpatrick cried, poh, poh, I am ſure I am right. But the coachman enquiring about what age he imagined each of his company was; Fitzpatrick replied, the gentleman was very old, and that one of the ladies too was old, and the other lady young. The coachman upon this aſſured him that he muſt enquire of ſomebody elſe, for that his fare was a young gentleman and two young ladies. But Fitzpatrick being almoſt tired in his hitherto fruitleſs enquiry, reſolved to make the coachman agree that his fare was the very company he was in ſearch of, and inſiſted that only one of the ladies was young, and that the other and the gentleman were both old. The coachman ſwore his fare

were all young. But Fitzpatrick would not allow any more than one who was young, and told him he could not ſee clear. The coachman began to take umbrage at Fitzpatrick's impeaching the goodneſs of his eyes, and likewiſe diſgracing his fare with antiquity, and again made oath not one of his fare was old; and Fitzpatrick, by the ſame evidence, perſiſted that two of them were very old. At length the coachman being out of all patience, gave Fitzpatrick the lie direct. Fitzpatrick being a man of honour returned the uſual anſwer that men of honour generally give on ſuch occaſions, and in conſequence the coachman lay extended in the channel. But he likewiſe being a man of honour, on his riſing prepared to anſwer the argument Fitzpatrick had advanced upon his face. But Fitzpatrick finding

finding his antagoniſt was going to reply, threw himſelf upon him, and getting him upon his hip, once more laid him in the channel.

The force of this reaſon had the deſired effect, for the coachman ſeeing Fitzpatrick now ready to ſupport his aſſertion with another reaſon of the ſame tenor with the laſt, gave up the argument, and ſwore he would never believe his eyes again. Fitzpatrick having ſhaken hands with the coachman, immediately repaired to Braſs, and gave him the intelligence we have already related.

CHAP. IX.

In which is related Braſs's adventure in the hall, with a particular account of his dining for the firſt time in the character of a gentleman.

BRASS having been conducted by Fitzpatrick to the place, where he expected ſoon to behold the lady, whoſe heart he had captivated at Ranelagh, made ſeveral marches before the hall, in hopes the lady would ſee him, and give him the ſignal of admiſſion; but not being able to make himſelf known to the lady, and obſerving many ladies and gentlemen go into the hall, he took the reſolution to attempt paſſing the beadle who ſtood centry at the gate, and preſently ſeeing a coach ſtop near the door, with a lady and gentleman in it, he took that opportunity

portunity to join them, the beadle humbly bowing to him as he paſt.

Braſs being entered the hall, found himſelf in company with about thirty ladies and gentlemen. At firſt, the ſplendour of the aſſembly put him into a little confuſion, but thinking it might diſcover his intruſion, he ſummoned his uſual confidence to his aid, which being ever his faithful attendant, immediately diſlodged that enemy to great and glorious actions, ---- enfeebling diffidence. Confidence having again ſeated herſelf in our hero's countenance, and he having ſeated himſelf next to the gentleman he came in with, and by aſking him a few trifling queſtions, aſſured the company he was his companion, next ſent his eyes around the room in ſearch of the lady he expected would acknowledge him; but not finding her in the

company, he concluded ſhe had not yet made her appearance, however, he reſolved to proceed to buſineſs, and endeavour to engage ſome of the fair inheriters of fortune preſent, to purchaſe a handſome pleaſure houſe he had to diſpoſe of: and having ſoon engaged a ſufficient number of the ladies attention, he exhibited, to the beſt advantage, a model of this delightful ſtructure, for their approbation, which diſcovered at one view, two firm pillars of the Hibernian order, on which was raiſed a noble piece of architecture, not of a lathy compoſition, as moſt of the beau monde reſide in, but ſuch a ſubſtantial manſion as our forefathers were uſed to inhabit; upon the tops of which was fixed a ventilator of wonderful virtue and exquiſite workmanſhip, with many other particulars too tedious to mention.

By

By the time Braſs had given notice to the ladies that this manſion was to be let or ſold, a very elegant dinner was ſerved in, and Mr. Braſs, with the reſt of the company, took his ſeat at the table, ſeating himſelf next to the gentleman whom he had followed in, with whom he occaſionally converſed to ſupport the deception of being his friend.

Braſs being ſeated at the table with the other gueſts, was aſtoniſhed at the variety of diſhes which compoſed this entertainment, but was more ſurprized to find, that amongſt them all, there was not more than two or three diſhes he had ever ſeen before; and having obſerved ſeveral of the moſt corpulent gentlemen tuck their napkins within the top of their waiſtcoats, he concluded it was a ceremony neceſſary for him to follow, therefore

he likewiſe complied with it, but not being able to ſee in what manner they had diſpoſed of the other end, he imagined it was deſigned to ſet their plates upon, and accordingly ſet his plate upon the other end of his napkin, and having helped himſelf to a plate of ſoup, as his neighbours had done, it was ſo grateful to his palate, that he reſolved when he came to his fortune to have ſuch ſoup every day, but unluckily forgetting the connection betwixt his plate and napkin, and ſuddenly leaning back in his chair, he unfortunately drew the napkin and plate after him, and overturned the ſoup into his breeches: with great confuſion he inſtantly recovered his plate, in hopes to prevent his misfortune's being diſcovered, and notwithſtanding he felt the ſoup was got within his breeches, and that it was ſcalding hot, yet he reſolved to continue

tinue on his ſeat, and let the ſoup find its way out as well as it could, and in in a ſhort time found the greateſt part of it was collected in his ſhoes, though he could not refrain from giving it a few ſilent curſes, as he felt it trickle down his white ſilk ſtockings. Braſs being reſolved to indulge himſelf with ſome more ſoup, laid hold of the ſpoon, and began to fill his plate, but to his great ſurprize found that one large ſpoonful made it overflow, for in his confuſion he had ſet his plate the wrong ſide upwards; this unfortunate circumſtance embarraſſed him greatly, eſpecially as he found the greateſt part of the company, from their mirth, were ſpectators of his diſtreſs. Our unfortunate adventurer having in great ſurprize ſtared upon the back of his plate, holding the ſpoon in his hand, for ſome time, and curſing both the ſoup and the plate for bring-

ing him into this ſituation, at length took the reſolution to return the ſoup from whence he had taken it, and accordingly, taking the plate in both his hands, with great ſucceſs got it once more into the terrene. This action encreaſed the mirth of the company, and the ſervants were obliged to cram their napkins into their mouths to prevent burſting out into a laugh.

Braſs having happily turned his plate on the right ſide again, once more repleniſhed it with ſoup, which he diſpoſed of in a more agreeable manner than the former; after which being inclined to partake of ſomething more ſolid, a clean plate was brought him, and though there were ſeveral curious diſhes ſtanding before him, yet he was very unwilling to venture upon any of the unknown kickſhaws,

and

and it ſo happened, that not far from him ſtood a ſhoulder of mutton which had been boned, and ſtuffed with variety of ingredients, on this joint Braſs concluded he ſhould make the beſt part of his dinner, and as ſoon as he found it within his reach, he ſecured a handſome ſlice of it upon his plate, but was much ſurprized to find that, inſtead of the uſual colour, the inſide was quite green. Braſs having alternately looked upon the ſlice he had cut, and the joint from which he had taken it, and being clear nothing could reſemble a ſhoulder of mutton ſo much, ſuppoſed it was the natural colour of Engliſh mutton, and immediately diſpatched a piece into his mouth for farther information; but the taſte not anſwering his expectations, nor reſembling the taſte of mutton he had been accuſtomed to, but on the contrary being ungrateful

to his palate, and having likewiſe conceived a bad opinion of it, he was extremely unwilling to ſwallow it, nor was he willing to endure the ſhame of putting it on his plate again, therefore he continued chewing it for ſome time, but the more he chewed it the more he taſted the nauſeous flavour, and finding that his ſtomach would not accept this delicious morſel, he thought of the ſame expedient as apothecaries make uſe of, to prevent their pills from being diſagreeable to their patients, and reſolved to cover the green mutton with bread, in order to deceive his ſtomach: accordingly, he applied piece after piece till he had loſt the flavour of the mutton, but by that time, his mouth was ſo full as to plump up each cheek very conſiderably, and attempting to ſwallow all together, he found he had worked the mutton and bread into a ball that was

too

too large for the orifice of his ſtomach, and was certain, that if he perſiſted in attempting to ſwallow it, that he ſhould be infallibly choaked. The neceſſity there was, however, to diſpoſe of it in ſome manner or other, from his being ſcarce able to breathe, made him prefer the ſhame of taking it out of his mouth, to ſuffering himſelf to be choaked, therefore he reſolved to bring all out the ſame way it went in; and accordingly, holding one hand under his mouth, with the fingers of his other he by piece-meal got out this diſagreeable bolus, which with great ſatisfaction he threw under the table, thinking himſelf happy that he had eſcaped ſuffocation.

As ſoon as Braſs had got rid of the pill which threatened to choak him, he reſolved not to venture upon any thing more, and abſolutely reſtrained him-

himſelf from cutting into a fine ſirloin of beef, leſt it ſhould turn out like the green mutton, reſolving to ſuſpend his dinner till he and Fitzpatrick ſat down together. But a courſe of paſtry being ſoon ſerved, he could not reſiſt the calls of hunger and inclination, to partake of ſome of the pyes and puddings that ſtood before him, all in variety of ſhapes according to the fancy of the cook; however, he determined to ſelect the moſt ſeeming innocent pudding he could find; accordingly, he fixed upon one that appeared to be a plain bread pudding, except that it was ſet out with variety of figures round it, and a Flower de Lis upon the top of it, as every thing elſe was, except in the difference of the figures. From this diſh, Braſs helped himſelf to a ſlice of about a pound, and putting a piece of it into his mouth, he thought if it was a pud-

ding

ding it was a very rich one, for having chewed it a few moments, it diſſolved away, and in leſs than a minute had quite loſt it. Braſs was ſenſible it taſted very like ſomething he was acquainted with, but never imagined he had helped himſelf to a pound of butter, which however was the real caſe; not being able to recollect what the pudding was made of, he concluded it was a pudding peculiar to gentlemen, and reflecting that he was now dining in the character of a gentleman, diſpatched the whole pound of butter, at every ſlice reflecting how finely this gentleman's pudding was calculated for old people who had no teeth. This miſtake of Braſs's created much mirth in the company, and he frequently joined them in their merriment, not thinking that he and the pudding were the ſubjects. Braſs having cleared his plate,

plate, reſolved not to endanger meeting with any thing worſe by any freſh trial, and frequently thought if it had not been for dining in the character of a gentleman, he ſhould have had a better dinner off a plain piece of boiled beef. The deſert ſucceeded the laſt courſe, Braſs could not prevail upon himſelf to taſte any of the tempting things he ſaw, and imagined that all the apricots and peaches were filled with ſomething as diſagreeable as the ſhoulder of mutton.

The entertainment being over, ſeveral of the company were deſirous to know who this gentleman was, who had afforded them ſo much mirth during the repaſt; accordingly a private enquiry was made throughout the company, and Braſs was found friendleſs. This diſcovery created various ſuſpicions among the ſpeculative part of

of the company, which were not much in our hero's favour, and the gentlemen immediately came to a reſolution to expel him. In what manner they executed their reſolution our readers may find in the next Chapter.

CHAP.

CHAP. X.

The concluſion of the adventure in the Hall, and a great diſcovery made by Fitzpatrick.

BRASS having, for the firſt time, dined in the character of a gentleman, began to think his palate was not calculated for his profeſſion, and enumerating the articles of his dinner, found the ſoup to be the moſt agreeable of them all. As for the Engliſh mutton, he was ſure he could never be brought to that, and for the gentleman's pudding, he was certain, that one made of oatmeal and water was preferable to it, though he acknowledged it was not ſo rich; and fancied all the other diſhes muſt be ten times more diſageeable, ſince a common ſhoulder of mutton and a plain looking

ing pudding were ſo diſtateful; but reflecting that cuſtom reconciled every thing, he concluded that in a ſhort time, they would be ſo familiar to him, that he ſhould be able to eat as hearty of theſe extraordinary things as the beſt gentleman at table.

Braſs having made theſe reflections, and finding the lady whoſe heart he had engaged at Renelagh was not in the company, began to think ſome miſtake had happened; however, he hoped to get a cuſtomer for his extraordinary merit, amongſt ſome of the ladies preſent, and reſolved to exhibit all his qualifications that were proper for their preſent inſpection, to the beſt advantage; and after having put himſelf into an attitude that at once diſplayed his perſonal excellence, he began to ogle the ladies with his uſual confidence, and ſoon found he had

had engaged the greateſt part of their attention, and from their laughter whenever they bent their eyes towards him, he imagined their mirth was a mark of their approbation; but at length caſting his eyes towards his legs, he found that his white ſilk ſtockings, which were plain when he put them on, were now become ribbed, and divided by ſeams of a brown colour, and all the way down from his knees to his ſhoes, and now remembered he felt the ſoup take its courſe down his legs.

Braſs being unable to remedy this conſpicuous mark of his diſgrace, ſat ſometimes wiſhing the ſoup had been at the Devil before he had been concerned with it; at other times calling upon the Devil to fly away with him out of the room. While he was uttering theſe ſilent ejaculations, a young gentleman

gentleman addreſſed himſelf to him, and politely begged the favour of his company into an adjoining room to partake of a glaſs of wine with ſome ſelect company; Braſs thought himſelf happy in receiving this invitation, and immediately obliged the gentleman with his company, not a little pleaſed to have ſo favourable an opportunity of conveying his ſtockings out of the room, which he now diſcovered to be the cauſe of the ladies mirth.

Braſs having been introduced to a party of about a dozen of the youngeſt part of the gentlemen, was received with great politeneſs; which he returned in the beſt manner he was capable of, and being ſeated, the gentleman begged the favour to know what wine he choſe, it being a rule, he obſerved,

obſerved, for every one to drink his own bottle. Braſs replied, that he had no particular choice, and that he would be glad to drink the ſame wine as the reſt of the company; upon which a bottle was immediately ſet before him.

We have already mentioned to our readers, that the gentlemen had reſolved upon Braſs's expulſion, and his behaviour at the table having convinced them, that he was extremly ignorant of the various diſhes he had ſeen, they made no doubt, but that he was equally ignorant of the various ſorts of wine; accordingly, they uncorked two bottles of tar-water, which they coloured by putting a ſmall quantity of red port into each, that it might reſemble the colour of the wine they were drinking, and now ſat one

of

of theſe bottles of tar-water before him.

A toaſt being propoſed by one of the gentlemen, which he told Braſs he preſumed he had no objection to, Braſs aſſured him he had not, and to convince him of it, filled a gill glaſs to the brim, for every one drank a full gill in honour of the toaſt; ſcarce had Braſs received the taſte of the tar-water, when all the muſcles and features of his face began to be in motion, even the blood which inhabited his cheeks ruſhed impetuouſly to ſtrengthen his heart; he having conceived that he had got a glaſs of poiſon in his hand, but ſeeing the company's eyes were all fixed upon him, he determined to ſtand the conſequence of it, and accordingly finiſhed his glaſs; immediately tears ſtole down his cheeks, and his viſage lengthened

ened ſome inches, and not being able, for a ſcore of ſeconds, to ſhut his mouth; as ſoon as he had ſat down the glaſs, he applied his handkerchief to his face to hide the revolution in his countenance. Having, under favour of his handkerchief, in ſome meaſure recovered his former countenance, and likewiſe his breath; the gentleman who had introduced him ſaid, he hoped the wine was agreeable to him. Braſs declared he never drank better in his life: the gentleman ſaid, he believed it was as as good taro watero as any in London; Braſs replied, that he had often drank taro watero, but never ſo good before. With much difficulty the company refrained from laughing at their gueſt's real ignorance and affected knowledge; but however, they reſtrained themſelves, leſt it might diſcover the impoſition.

Braſs

Braſs taking into conſideration the ſtrange and diſagreeable things that compoſed the late entertainment of gentlemen, at length concluded, that the palates of gentlemen were different from all other people, and thought that an apprenticeſhip of ten years would not enable him to eat green mutton, and drink taro watero, in the ſame manner the other gentlemen did; and began to think the life of a gentleman was not quite ſo pleaſant as he had imagined.

By the time Braſs had finiſhed thoſe reflections, he was called upon to honour a ſecond toaſt. Having filled his glaſs, he immediately lifted it to his mouth, but the ſtrong effluvia of this diſtillation from tar getting up his noſe, he ſat it down as haſtily as if he had ſeen a viper leap in it, at the ſame time his viſage involuntarily running

through a variety of ſhapes, to recover which he was obliged again to have recourſe to his handkerchief; being ſoon called upon to put the toaſt about, he ſeized the glaſs, and haſtily putting it to his mouth, at one reſolute draught ſwallowed a ſecond gill of tar water; upon taking the glaſs from his mouth, the fullneſs of the flavour again operated upon his features, and he ſhivered as if he had been in an ague fit.

By the time half the company had given their toaſts, Braſs had almoſt finiſhed his bottle, being under dreadful apprehenſions, that every glaſs would diſgrace him by a return, and by this time his ſtomach aſſured him, that it could not much longer ſupport him in the character of a gentleman. Braſs having drank two more glaſſes of taro watero, his bottle was out, but there

there being four more toaſts to be drank, a freſh bottle was ſet before him. The ſight of another quart of this unſavory liquor, very near made Braſs give up all his pretenſions to gentility, and he was upon the point of declaring his averſion to the ſuppoſed wine; but reflecting that he had at firſt expreſſed his approbation of it, he imagined ſuch a declaration would be looked upon as a confeſſion of his not being able to drink any more; and not being willing to be outdone in this point of manhood, he reſolved to ſtand the conſequence of the other bottle; but, however, he reckoned without his hoſt, his ſtomach having made no ſuch reſolution; neither had the pudding and the taro watero agreed in their quarters, but on the contrary, after much grumbling, they were preparing to commit hoſtilities; and the pudding finding the enemy

was conſtantly receiving recruits, reſolved to declare war before the taro watero became two ſtrong; and the ſoup finding the pudding was likely to be overpowered with numbers, joined againſt the taro watero, and a dreadful battle was fought; Braſs finding the action was become general, began to ſweat for fear of the conſequences, and his ſtomach not liking to be made the field of battle, reſolved to diſlodge the combatants without any diſtinction, and immediately forced them all to abandon the cauſe of their contention. The whole engaged army now precipitately fled, taking the rout the ſame way they came.

Braſs's company finding their deſign was come to the expected criſis, left him to return the favours he had received by himſelf, and the wounded combatants in this battle, continued,

for

for near a quarter of an hour, to limp down his waiſtcoat and breeches, which they richly embroidered as they went.

Braſs having a little recovered himſelf from this ſhock, which had overturned the whole ſyſtem of his gentility, reſolved to leave a place which produced nothing but diſgrace and diſappointments, and, without any ceremony, immediately repaired to Fitzpatrick, who had by this time employed three pots of entire butt in drinking to the ſucceſs of his couſin in the hall. But Braſs related to him the various misfortunes he had met with, and likewiſe that the lady he had been in ſearch of had not appeared in the company; Fitzpatrick immediately concluded, that the evil ſpirit, upon leaving him, had taken poſſeſſion of his couſin; and upon

hearing Braſs's adventure with the taro watero, declared a ſingle tankard of Gifford's porter was better than all the taro watero in England; though mayhap, ſays he, one bottle of it may coſt as much as a week's pay to the beſt man that ever handled a rope.

Fitzpatrick having finiſhed his obſervation, and likewiſe the tankard, ſat out to convoy his couſin once more to his lodging, ſorrowfully muſing as he went, upon the many diſaſters and diſappointments they had both met with within the laſt twenty-four hours; which led him to contemplate upon what could poſſibly be the meaning of ſuch an extraordinary concatenation of unfortunate events; and being arrived in Saint Paul's-Church-yard, Fitzpatrick ſuddenly ſtopped, and daſhing his hat againſt the ground with the utmoſt vehemence, burſt out, ----

Damna-

Damnation --- I have it. Braſs not knowing what his couſin had found, and ſeeing him ſtand with his eyes fixed upon his hat, and his countenance overſpread with a mixture of anger and vexation, after a minute or two's ſilence, aſked him what was the matter. Fitzpatrick, without paying any regard to his couſin, proceeded, as uſual, to the ceremony of curſing all his limbs and members, which having very regularly performed, Braſs again enquired what was the matter with him? Matter! ſays Fitzpatrick, taking up his hat, the matter is this, we might as well think of ſailing round the world in a Hen-coop, as to think we ſhould have any luck to day, why, its a croſs-day. Braſs could ſcarce refrain from ſmiling at the reaſon Fitzpatrick had given for the diſgrace and diſappointments he

had met with in the hall; but reflecting that every thing he had been concerned in from his firſt entrance into the hall to the time of his leaving it, had been attended with ſome misfortune to him, he began to think he really was under the influence of ſome ſupernatural power, and Fitzpatrick declaring that he never had any ill luck but what happened upon a croſs-day, and likewiſe aſſuring him, that the reaſon why he had never been able to riſe at ſea, for ſo many years, was becauſe he was ſent upon a croſs-day; Braſs became a convert to his couſin's doctrine, and declared he was ſorry Fitzpatrick had not remembered it was a croſs-day before he had conducted him to the hall. Fitzpatrick lamented his not having remembered it before by curſing himſelf and all his generation, and concluded with aſſuring

aſſuring Braſs that they ſhould never proſper in any thing they undertook on a croſs-day, and declared his reſolution to go to hammock as ſoon as he got home; and Braſs likewiſe took the reſolution to ſpend the remainder of the croſs-day in bed.

CHAP. XI.

In which Braſs and Fitzpatrick are in great perplexity, with the ingenious expedient Fitzpatrick found out to overcome the difficulties.

SOON after day-break, on the ſucceeding morning after Braſs's adventure in the hall, he awoke, and immediately melancholly and deſpair intruded their irkſome company upon him, and prevented Morpheus from again folding his lethargick arms around him. But at length remembering the waiter's application to him at Ranelagh for his direction, he aroſe and reſolved to ſhew his rival that he was not dilatory in obeying the ſummons of honour, and immediately repaired to the Blue Boar in Holborn, where he was informed a porter had left

left a letter for him on the preceeding evening, and which the waiter immediately delivered to him.

And we can aſſure our readers that our hero received this ſuppoſed challenge, with the compoſure men of honour receive ſuch ſummonſes, "Upon a good cauſe and the law on "their ſide," and putting the letter in his pocket immediately returned to his lodging, and laying it upon a table, juſt as he received it, traverſed the room with his arms folded over his breaſt; not out of a puſillanious apprehenſion of being informed of ſomething diſagreable. Neither was he reflecting upon the conſequences that might attend the event of meeting an enraged rival. --- No. Let not our readers entertain ſuch unfavourable ſentiments of the hero of theſe true memoirs. But leſt they ſhould deem

this circumſtance improbable, we will acquaint them with the true reaſon, why he delayed to ſatisfy himſelf of the contents of this letter, which he ſuppoſed was fraught with ſuch important intelligence; for as we think ourſelves bound to ſatisfy every doubt that may ariſe to our readers from any ocurrences in theſe memoirs, that are proper for their immediate knowledge, or that may ſuſtain their opinion of our veracity, we ſhall gratify their curioſity in the preſent incident, though we ſtep back two or three hundred years for it, and which we are obliged to do, before we can come at the ſource of this particular circumſtance. For we can aſſure our readers, that neither from the annals of our hero's country, nor from any traditionary informaion amongſt his relations or others, can we learn that the antient family of the Braſs's had ever been known

known to inſtruct their deſcendants in the myſtery of reading and writing.

What particular reaſon this noble family had for not teaching the young gentlemen ſo uſeful a part of literature, we can by no means come to the true knowledge of. Some conjecture one thing, ſome ſurmiſe another; but the following opinion of a ſage Hibernian, ſeems to carry the moſt weight of them all, which is, that from the many misfortunes that have happened to people who were inſtructed how to read and write, particularly the latter, Braſs's prudent anceſtors might be deterred from putting ſuch inſtruments of ruin into their childrens hands; and Mac Dennis Braſs, our hero's father, not having infringed upon the ancient cuſtom of his family in this point, we readily

readily join our opinion to that of the ſage above-mentioned.

Having thus given our readers the beſt intelligence the nature of this circumſtance will permit us, we will now return to our young adventurer. With much impatience Braſs traverſed the room for ſome hours in expectation of the arrival of his couſin; and Fitzpatrick having at length opened his eyes, and found the ſun had advanced far upon his diurnal expedition, roſe and hailed the day that was not marked in his catalogue for a croſs one, and having clad himſelf in his red waiſtcoat, repaired to Braſs: Fitzpatrick being come into the preſence of his couſin, Braſs haſtily put the letter into his hands, and deſired he would read him the contents.

Fitz-

Fitzpatrick having received the letter, looked with great ſurpriſe, firſt at the letter, and then upon Braſs; but having heard Braſs's deſire, ſignificantly ſhaking his head (which was to ſerve upon this occaſion inſtead of ſpeech) returned Braſs the letter.

Now, as our readers had not an opportunity of ſeeing Fitzpatrick ſhake his head, when he returned his couſin the letter, it is incumbent upon us to account for his ſo doing, and which we will do in a few words.

Fitzpatrick having, as we have before informed our readers, been deſigned for an admiral (but as he was unfortunately bound apprentice to one upon a croſs-day, it conſequently came to nought) his father very ſagaciouſly imagined he would have clerks and ſecre-

ſecretaries enough to perform all the buſineſs of reading and writing, therefore concluded it would be quite unneceſſary to loſe his time in learning what would be uſeleſs to him, and conſequently Fitzpatrick was not inſtructed in the myſtery of reading and writing; which was the meaning of his ſhaking his head in the ſagacious manner above expreſſed.

This unlucky circumſtance was too much for Braſs's patience, and he immediately called upon the Devil to burn the ſouls of the firſt inventers of thoſe damned black ſcrawls, and next wiſhed his father might belong to Satan's ſociety for not teaching him to underſtand them. Nor was Fitzpatrick ſilent upon this occaſion, but likewiſe hoped his father was ſtowed in a hot birth for the ſame reaſon.

After Braſs and Fitzpatrick had compleated the ceremony of curſing their predeceſſors for not enabling them to read the letter, a debate, upon ways and means how to come at the contents of it, enſued, and a conſiderable time was ſpent in this caſe, as in thouſands of others, in propoſing ſchemes by one party, and ſtarting objections by the other; ever and anon Braſs wiſhing the letter was with his father in the ſulphurous regions, and Fitzpatrick wiſhing it was along-ſide his tobacco-box.

After much ill humour, and more ill looks, beſtowed by them both upon the letter, Fitzpatrick at length propoſed to take it to a Regiſter Office, which was the place he always applied to upon matters of extraordinary difficulty, and where he had, for a ſhilling, fre-

frequently purchaſed much information and contentment.

This expedient not being liable to the objections they had raiſed on its being propoſed to apply to the parſon of the pariſh, or to Fitzpatrick's confeſſor; Braſs aſſented to it, and they immediately ſat forward to a Regiſter Office in the Strand, where being arrived, Fitzpatrick gave the letter and a ſhilling to one of the clerks, and deſired him to read the contents of it out; and in order to gratify our readers curioſity, we here give them a true copy of it.

SIR,

"EITHER my fancy flattered "me or your eyes expreſſed a deſire "to ſpeak to me privately, when I "ſaw you laſt at Ranelagh; perhaps "both

" both deceived me. I ſhould, how-
" ever, have given you the opportu-
" nity, had it been in my power,
" though I bluſh to acknowledge it.
" And when I tell you the old gentle-
" man who I was in company with,
" is my huſband, you will perhaps
" condemn me for this breach of duty.
" But when you conſider the diſparity
" of our years, you will think love
" had little ſhare in our union, I
" mean on my ſide. No, I ſacrificed
" myſelf to ſhare his fortune, which
" is very large, therefore hope I ſhall
" eſcape your cenſure, or that this in-
" formation will mitigate my crimé:
" I ſhould certainly have found means
" to have given you an opportunity to
" have ſpoke to me, had it not been
" for the old lady, who is my huſ-
" band's ſiſter, but I perceived ſhe
" was jealous, and reſolved not to
" leave me in the box by myſelf. If

" you

" you are desirous to meet one who is
" not willing to fly from you, I shall
" be in the same box as that I was in
" the last time I was there, on Thurs-
" day next.

" I am, your obedient
" humble servant,
" SOPHIA WEALTHY."

P. S. " My husband caught cold the
" last time he was there, and this
" day will be obliged to send for a
" physician, therefore he will not
" accompany me, and I expect to
" come alone."

Brass was not a little pleased to find the letter was an invitation to prove his manhood in the soft arms of love, instead of one to prove his prowess in the rough arms of a rival, though he would have obeyed the one as soon as the

the other; and Fitzpatrick ſnapping his fingers, ſwore he knew they ſhould come up with her at laſt, but could not help wiſhing the old ſhaver was faſt moored amongſt the lobſters.

Though Braſs conceived warm hopes of ſucceeding to a good living upon the death of the old incumbent; yet ſuch was his impatience to arrive at gentility, that his ſpirits began to ſink at the probability of his not being inducted into it for ſome time; but recollecting that the curacy might afford him a very decent ſubſiſtence in the interim, and likewiſe give him an opportunity to uſe what intereſt he ſhould find proper in regard to the old gentleman's ſiſter, he was highly delighted with the aſpect of his affairs, and reſolved to be governed in his conduct to theſe two ladies by the value of their eſtates,

eſtates, either in poſſeſſion or reverſion.

As for Fitzpatrick, the letter had ſat his ſpirits a-float again, and he entirely forgot all the misfortunes that had been brought on them by his deadly foe the croſs-day, and he entertained himſelf and the paſſengers as they returned to Braſs's lodgings, with ſinging---" A light heart and a thin " pair of breeches goes thorough the " world brave boys,"---which having finiſhed, he next congratulated himſelf upon the certainty there was of his ſoon bidding adieu to the blue coat and ſtrap: and by the ſtrength of his imagination, he had in a ſhort time ſent the huſband of Mrs. Wealthy into the manſions of the dead amongſt his anceſtors, and ſuppoſed his couſin had taken poſſeſſion of his relict and

his

his eſtate; and immediately made a diviſion of her fortune with him, according to agreement; and, by the time he had ſettled how much his ſhare came to, they were arrived at Braſs's lodgings, where they ſpent ſome time in ſilently meditating upon their future felicity.

CHAP.

CHAP. XII.

Wherein Braſs and Fitzpatrick hold a council upon the preſent poſture of affairs. With the weighty reſolutions thereupon taken.

OUR young adventurer having feaſted his imagination with deluſive ſplendor and fancied affluence, till he was almoſt cloyed with the repetition of ideal raptures, thought it neceſſary for them to hold a council upon the preſent poſture of affairs, that nothing might be neglected on their part, to facilitate their promiſed happineſs; accordingly, he applied to Fitzpatrick to aid him with his counſel, but not having received any anſwer from him, he imagined he was fallen aſleep, and from the motions of his lips and head, fancied he was dreaming.

dreaming. Nor was Braſs's conjectures entirely foreign to the real cauſe. For Fitzpatrick was fallen into one of thoſe waking dreams, which people of weak heads and warm imaginations ſpend much time in; and ſo ſtrongly was Fitzpatrick now debating with himſelf, whether he ſhould purchaſe, with his ſhare of Mrs. Wealthy's fortune, a commiſſioner's place in the Exciſe Office, or Cuſtom Houſe, that he had not heard Braſs ſpeak to him. But not being able to come to any determination upon this important matter, he deferred his final determination to a more convenient opportunity, and immediately ſignified the recovery of his ſenſes to his couſin, by aſking, what cheer boy?

Braſs, finding Fitzpatrick had releaſed himſelf from his ſlumbers, a council was immediately held; and it

was firſt reſolved, nem. con. that Braſs was certain of being very ſhortly in poſſeſſion of one of the ladies fortunes; ſecondly, that, in order to ſupport the deception of Braſs's being a gentleman of fortune, it was neceſſary he ſhould be equipped with a new ſuit of cloathes, and the other external trappings of a gentleman; laſtly, that Fitzpatrick ſhould henceforward, till the day of his couſin's marriage, act in the capacity of his footman.

Theſe reſolutions being taken, a debate upon ways and means to put them in execution, next enſued, and, after many arguments, wherein much perſpicuity and eloquence were diſplayed on both ſides, it was reſolved that application ſhould be made to Braſs's landlord, who fortunately happened to be a taylor, to furniſh him with a ſuit of cloathes

cloathes upon credit, till the marriage had taken effect, which, from the encouragement Braſs had received from Mr. Wealthy's ſiſter, together with the aſſiſtance of a phyſician, who was called in to Mr. Wealthy, they concluded would certainly be within a week: and it was likewiſe reſolved, that, as Fitzpatrick would not have any farther occaſion for his chair, he ſhould immediately diſpoſe of it, with every thing belonging to it, and apply the money ariſing from the ſale, in purchaſing a livery for himſelf, and the ſeveral requiſites Braſs would have occaſion for, and the overplus to be employed to ſubſiſt them during the ſhort interval betwixt their preſent neceſſity and expected affluence. Every thing being thus ſettled, the council broke up; and Fitzpatrick making it a rule, never to put off that

till to-morrow which could be done to-day, reſolved immediately to give notice among his brethren of the ſtrap, of the ſale of an excellent chair, with the appurtenances thereunto belonging, and likewiſe waited upon Mr. Meaſure, the taylor, with directions to attend Braſs, who in obedience to the ſummons inſtantly repaired to his lodger, and deſired to know his commands; Braſs, with that confidence which was ever his inſeparable companion, told Mr. Meaſure that he was upon the point of being married to a young lady of fortune, and that he wanted a genteel ſuit of cloathes for his wedding: Mr. Meaſure expreſſed in grateful terms the honour he eſteemed it in being favoured with his commands, and aſſured him no man in the trade could excel him in cutting a piece of cloth in the moſt faſhionable taſte; and, immediately taking from his pocket the

diſmembered ſlips of a parchment indenture, began to take meaſure of him, and, during the operation, complimented Braſs upon the juſt ſymmetry and proportion of his ſhape; and declared, that though he had worked for many of the nobility and gentry, both at home and abroad, he never ſaw a better ſhape ſince he had uſed a pair of ſciſſars.

Mr. Meaſure having finiſhed his buſineſs, required to know what cloathes his honour choſe, which, after ſome debate betwixt them upon what would be moſt genteel, ended in his ordering a ſuit of green, and gold lace, to be made with all expedition, which Mr. Meaſure aſſured him ſhould be done, and, with much ceremony took his leave, leaving Braſs overjoyed at his landlord's civility, in not menti-

oning any thing relative to his paying for them.

Fitzpatrick having given notice that he was leaving off buſineſs, and that his ſtock in trade was to be ſold, returned to his couſin Braſs, and received the agreeable news of his ſucceſsful interview with Mr. Meaſure. And now every thing appearing favourable to exalt Braſs from the humble ſtation of a brogue-maker, to the ſummit of gentility, and the time being near at hand, when Fitzpatrick ſhould exchange ſweating beneath the weight of an immoderate fare, for the leſs laborious employment of a commiſſioner, their ſpirits were raiſed higher than they had ever experienced them before; and ſo much was Fitzpatrick tranſported, that he could not refrain from fetching half a gallon of beer, to waſh away the remembrance of his

paſt

paſt misfortunes. But as ſome unlucky accident frequently follows extreme joy, and damps all our happineſs, ſo Fate, when ſhe ſaw theſe two worthy adventurers arrived at the higheſt pinnacle of intellectual felicity, envying the extremity of their happineſs, amidſt all their jollity ſtruck away the baſis on which their preſent joy was raiſed, and daſhed them into deſpair. For Fitzpatrick, to the ſurpriſe of Braſs, ſuddenly ſetting down the half gallon of beer, which he had juſt lifted to his mouth, with a countenance filled with horror and diſmay, burſt out, Avaſt, dam----n ſeize you, avaſt, and immediately fell to the exerciſe of throwing the chairs about the room, and kicking his hat.

Braſs not being able to diſcover the meaning of this ſudden change in his couſin, imagined he had felt himſelf

poiſoned with the beer he had been ſo plentifully drinking; and to appeaſe him ſaid, he might be miſtaken.

Fitzpatrick continuing his oaths and his exerciſe, with frequent interjections, that all was over, confirmed Braſs's opinion that his couſin had juſt taken his laſt draught, and, endeavoured to comfort him, by again ſaying he might be miſtaken. But Fitzpatrick ſwore there was no miſtake in the caſe, and that it had always turned out ſo.

Upon which Braſs deſired he would explain himſelf, and let him know what was the matter with him. Fitzpatrick replied with great vehemence of ſpeech, that babe of Hell, the croſsday, is come athwart me again.

The

The mention of the croſs-day called up Braſs's remembrance of his adventure in the hall, with all the diſgrace that attended it; but he was entirely ignorant how it ſhould affect them at that time.

Fitzpatrick having maimed two or three chairs, and kicked his hat till he was tired, ſat down contented with the revenge he had taken upon the croſs-day, the chairs and his hat being proxies for it, upon this occaſion. And, after he had recovered his breath at the requeſt of Braſs, farther explained the myſtery of the croſs-day, telling him, that as he was lifting up the half gallon of beer to drink, it ſuddenly came into his head that the day Mrs. Wealthy had appointed Braſs to meet her at Ranelagh, was

the return of the croſs day; and we may eaſily gueſs, ſays he, by the laſt croſs-day, what ſucceſs we ſhall have the next; and concluded with wiſhing the Devil would take his own begotten babe to himſelf.

Though Braſs had a ſmall portion of Fitzpatrick's ſuperſtition, yet he was not quite poſitive that his unfortunate days were always upon a Thurſday, which happened to be the croſs-day for this year, and propoſed, as it was impoſſible for them to alter the day of appointment with Mrs. Wealthy, that they ſhould entirely forget that it was a croſs-day, and run the hazard of good and bad fortune.

Fitzpatrick ſwore he could as ſoon forget his own name, as forget it, eſpecially as all their fortune depended upon it;

it; to be ſure, ſays he, I had almoſt forget the laſt, but you found it put us in mind of it before I remembered it. Upon which they both joined ſtocks, and, betwixt them, they poured out as many oaths againſt the croſs-day, and all its generation, as would ſerve a ſhip's crew to the Eaſt Indies.

At length, having tired themſelves with curſing the croſs-day, their rage ſubſided, and they came to a reſolution to invent ſome expedient that might fruſtrate the dire effects of it, as their whole fortune, Fitzpatrick obſerved, depended upon it; and concluded with ſwearing he would not ſell the chair, until ſomething was determined upon that might releaſe him from the dread of that fatal day.

Accordigly; an extraordinary council was immediately held upon this important ſubject; the reſult of it, our readers may find in the next chapter.

CHAP.

CHAP. XIII.

Wherein is a digreſſion upon the croſs-day, with a propoſal from the Author.

BEFORE we purſue the thread of our narrative, we beg leave to ſay a few words regarding the croſs-day. This unlucky day, which was always Fitzpatrick's enemy, and had prevented his riſing to the ſtation of an admiral, is almoſt as old as Chriſtianity, it being that day which is in the almanack known by the name of Innocents day, and by moſt old women called Childermas-day. Now on what day of the week this day happens to fall, it is, throughout the year, univerſally deemed a croſs-day.

And here we cannot but lament, that ſo large a number of theſe unlucky

lucky days, being no leſs than fifty-two in the year, ſhould be ſuffered to walk, like an evil ſpirit, up and down the kingdom without controul, to the great terror of his majeſty's ſubjects, and the hinderance of much buſineſs.

If we were to enumerate all the inconveniences that the ſufferance of this day is productive of, it would ſwell this chapter to an enormous length; therefore we will content ourſelves with mentioning ſome of the moſt particular; it obliges parents to poſtpone putting their children into breeches; it prevents them from ſending their children to ſchool; it terrifies them from putting their boys apprentices, nay ſome go far as to calculate on what day their ſons will be out of their time, that care may be taken it does not happen upon a croſs-day. Beſides the great number of weddings,

weddings, and chriſtenings it procraſtinates thoughout the kingdom, which tends to the manifeſt injury of the community in general.

Having, we preſume, ſufficiently proved the great need there is to aboliſh the croſs-day, we hope the legiſlature will take it into conſideration, and find out ſome means to put a ſtop to ſo dreadful an evil.

Might we preſume to ſpeak our ſentiments on this occaſion, we ſhould recommend it to the ſerious conſideration of the clergy, to whoſe province the expulſion of it belongs as much as that of laying ghoſts, which formerly were ſo populous, that one could ſcarce paſs along a country church-yard after it was dark, without encountering one or two of them; but, by the wiſdom of the clergy, they were at length

length happily driven into the Red Sea; and now we have ſcarce a ghoſt that dares ſhew its head amongſt us, except indeed ſome few, who ſtill inhabit decayed manſions, and frequent the places where four lanes terminate; but as they are an inconſiderable number, and behave peaceably, it is not thought worth while to moleſt them. Therefore we ſay, we would likewiſe recommend it to the clergy to lay the croſs-day, which is of the ſame generation as ghoſts, and equally deſerves their notice; and we are perſuaded, that when our readers are acquainted with the conſequences that ſucceeded Fitzpatrick's endeavours to fruſtrate the dire effects of the enſuing croſs-day, they will join with us in wiſhing to ſee the total extirpation of it. Having thus diſburthened ourſelves of this load, which has long lain heavy upon

upon our conſcience, we will now reſume our narrative.

Various were the conceptions formed by the warm imaginations of Braſs and Fitzpatrick, how they ſhould deſtroy the power of the enſuing evil day; but they either proved abortive or died away immediately after their birth. So that the thoughts Fitzpatick had entertained, of his ſoon being a commiſſioner, were preparing to leave their poſſeſſions, and he began to ſweat under the apprehenſions of being doomed to carry heavy fares all the approaching dog-days.

But Fitzpatrick's prolifick brain at length ſtruck out a moſt ſagacious expedient, for remembering the great efficacy of faſting, praying, and penance, in all affairs in which the Devil was concerned, and happily poſſeſſing a ſtrong

a ſtrong faith, which is eſteemed one of the moſt powerful weapons to combat Satan with, he propoſed them to Braſs as antidotes to be uſed the day preceeding that which, he ſaid, the Devil hoiſted his flag upon.

Braſs not having a ſtrong inclination, either to faſt or pray, or perform a penance, told Fitzpatrick he approved of the remedy he had choſen, but ſaid, he ſuppoſed, if one of them performed the ceremony it would be ſufficient; this Fitzpatrick doubted, upon which a debate enſued, but Braſs-in the concluſion, alledging, that if one of their fortunes was made it would extend to both; ſo, he ſaid, in conſequence, if one of them was free from the evil effects of the croſs-day, it might likewiſe extend to both. This reaſon entirely ſatisfied Fitzpatrick, and he undertook to engage the Devil himſelf.

Fitzpatrick

Fitzpatrick having happily invented this expedient, made no doubt but, as ſoon as it was compleated, he ſhould be invulnerable, and ſecure from all the efforts of the croſs-day; therefore he immediately reſolved to make ſale of the chair, and come to a determination upon the commiſſioner's place.

But however, it was firſt requiſite for him to fix upon a penance, and which he thought ought to bare ſome analogy to the ſubject matter of it; and after much meditation, he at length recollected, that the evil ſpirit had poſſeſſed him on the laſt croſs-day, and carried him up to Highgate; and reſolved to make a pilgrimage to Highgate barefoot in memory of it.

Having ſettled his penance to his ſatisfaction, he devoted the remainder of the time, till the performance of it,

to

to the ſale of the chair, purchaſing himſelf a livery, and the proper requiſites for Braſs; and by the time theſe ſeveral important concerns were compleated. Mr. Meaſure waited upon Braſs with his cloaths; which were tried upon him, and found without any fault. Mr. Meaſure having ſometime rubbed his hand, and complimented his new cuſtomer with obſerving how well they ſat upon him, and how much they became him, retired, with his uſual number of ſcrapes, and once more left Braſs to applaud his great civility; which perhaps, was in ſome meaſure owing to Fitzpatrick's entrance during the trying on of the cloathes, in a yellow livery turned up with red, which he had purchaſed at the ſame place Braſs had formerly been equipt from, and now helped to confirm Mr. Meaſure in his opinion of Braſs's being a man of fortune.

We

We cannot pay Fitzpatrick the ſame compliment as Mr. Meaſure had juſt paid Braſs, that his cloaths ſat exceeding well upon him, for they were full full half a yard too long for him, and proportionably too large all over, being much about the ſize of his blue coat, in which he carried the chair, and as they were cut in the faſhion which was the taſte in the laſt age, we cannot ſay he looked charmingly in them; however, Fitzpatrick could not get any ſo cheap as theſe, and as they were to laſt him but a ſhort time he did not much regard the gentility of them.

On the Tueſday, which was the day before Fitzpatrick was to engage the Devil, he began to prepare for the combat, ſitting the greateſt part of the day with his feet in a tub half full of the ſame liquor which careful jockeys apply

apply to the heels of their horſes; from whence indeed Fitzpatrick had taken the hint.

It is not neceſſary to inform our readers, that Fitzpatrick meant, by ſoaking his feet in this delightful bath, to harden them againſt his approaching journey to Highgate barefoot. But that they may not be under an apprehenſion of his fainting for want of food on the ſucceeding faſt day, it may be agreeable to them to be informed, that as he ſat hardening his feet, there ſtood upon a table near him, about eight pounds of boiled beef, which by the evening he had totally demoliſhed, together with the like number of pots of beer; it being Fitzpatrick's cuſtom always to eat and drink a double quantity the day before a faſt.

The

The faſt-day being at length arrived, Fitzpatrick remained the whole day in his cabin, offering up prayers to St. Patrick, St. Bridget, and every one of the Saints he was acquainted with, ſupplicating them to diſarm the enſuing croſs-day of it's evil effects, not a ſingle oath eſcaping from him the whole day, neither did he take the leaſt refreſhment. At lenth the hour of performing his penance, which he had fixed to begin as ſoon as it was dark, being arrived, he began to wiſh, with Falſtaff, that all was over, and that it was bed time. But philoſophically reflecting, that, by ſuffering a few diſagreeable hours, he ſhould purchaſe an age of future eaſe and happineſs, he boldly pulled off his ſhoes and ſtockings, and, pulling up his breeches, ſat forward to Highgate, where we hope he will ſoon arrive, and that the penance he has inflicted upon himſelf

may

may have the deſired effect; and with much pleaſure ſhould we accompany him, but that we have other important matters upon our hands. However, the reader may be aſſured we will give him a faithful detail of Fitzpatrick's pilgrimage, after we have diſpatched the buſineſs which now demands our attention.

Braſs being now, by the aſſiſtance of Mr. Meaſure, raiſed to that pitch of external gentility which equalled his wiſhes; and being ſenſible that immuring himſelf in his lodgings would not anſwer any purpoſe, he reſolved to launch into the world.

Accordingly, while Fitzpatrick was imploring the aſſiſtance of the Saints, he ſat out, and after ſtrolling about ſome time, he found himſelf in Saint James's Park, and it being the duſk of the

the evening, he found little difficulty in introducing himſelf to what company he choſe, and ſupported a converſation of ſmall talk with young milliners, mantua-makers, and ſuch like, with great ſpirit. But all theſe ladies, both in their dreſs and behaviour, bearing a ſtrong reſemblance to the lady whom he had made love to in Vauxhall, and by whom he had been ſo grievouſly deceived, he concluded they were all of the ſame profeſſion, and reſolved to leave them to thoſe who might chuſe to venture their purſes with them; and in his return along the walk which adjoins to the graſs in the Mall, he obſerved a young lady ſitting diſconſolate upon one of the benches, dreſſed in a green riding habit, adorned with a narrow ſilver lace; as he drew near her, he heard a repetition of ſighs that proclaimed heart-felt ſorrow. Our young

adventurer being curious to know the cauſe of this young lady's diſtreſs, repaired to the bench, and ſeated himſelf by her, upon which the lady roſe with a ſeeming intention to retire; but Braſs, after ſome difficulty, prevailed upon her to ſit down again, aſſuring her that the affliction he ſaw ſhe was in had induced him to offer her any ſervice that was in his power; the lady genteely bowed her acknowledgment of the favour, but remained ſilent, with her head reclined from him, as if ſhe was unwilling he ſhould ſee her face; however, Braſs had ſeen ſo much of it, as to be convinced ſhe was extremely beautiful; and her whole perſon, which was ſet off by her habit to the beſt advantage, being entirely to his taſte, the fire of that paſſion he ſo eminently poſſeſſed, began to kindle in his veins, however,

he

he reſolved to reſtrain it from breaking out into any overt-act, till he had raiſed thoſe ſentiments in the lady, which were ſimilar to what he felt, and therefore thought it would be moſt prudent to let her give vent to her lamentations, well knowing, that when the mind labours with affliction, love is not eaſily inſpired, but made no doubt, when her ſorrows were in ſome meaſure relieved by relating the cauſe of them, with his aſſiſtance, love would inſinuate itſelf into her boſom; accordingly, with all the tenderneſs he could expreſs, he begged ſhe would let him know what unhappineſs afflicted her, aſſuring her, that nothing in his power ſhould be wanting to relieve her. The lady, in a plaintive ſweetneſs of voice, expreſſed her thanks for his willingneſs to oblige her, but ſaid, ſhe was afraid it

was not in his power to be of any ſer-ing to her. However, Braſs, with ſooth-vice words and perſevering importu-nity, at length prevailed upon her to tell him the ſtory of her woe; and which, reader, thou mayeſt find in the next chapter.

CHAP.

CHAP. XIV.

The ſtrange Lady's Story.

THE young lady having, by Braſs's perſuaſive eloquence, conſented to reveal to him the cauſe of her lamentation, thus opened the relation of her misfortunes. You ſee, Sir, ſays the lady, one who, from the moſt extreme point of happineſs, by one fatal and irretrievable error, is reduced to the moſt compleat miſery; it is not my only unhappineſs to want neceſſaries to ſupport my exiſtence, or to be deſtitute of a place where I may ſhelter myſelf from the inclement ſky; but it has pleaſed the Almighty to give me a mind ſuſceptible of the pangs of guilt, and to feel the loſs of innocence, which neither time nor a change of circumſtances can ever re-

ſtore. Were I exalted to a ſtate of affluence, it could not raiſe me above the terrors of a guilty mind, or divert the anguiſh of reflection, and ſure that being who cannot bear reflection muſt be miſerable; but I wander, Sir, from my intention to ſatisfy your earneſt entreaty to know the cauſe of my affliction. I will now, Sir, relate it, perhaps it may ſome time prevent your exerciſing that power over the ſoft heart of a believing maid, which mine has experienced.

I will not trouble you, Sir, with a long relation of my family or its connections; let it ſuffice that I am the daughter of a gentleman of repute in the county of Dorſet, and his only child, who beſtowed ſuch improvements upon my mind, with every neceſſary accompliſhment, as was proper for my ſtation, and conſiſtent with my

expectations,

expectations, for which I made it my ſtudy and ſole endeavours to make him ſuch a return as a heart filled with filial gratitude could dictate. In ſhort, we communicated joy reciprocally to each other, as I was the only object of his happineſs, ſo was he my parent, friend and confident. Every wiſh I did but hint was gratified, or anticipated by a fond and indulgent parent, and every day brought me ſome new tribute of his fondneſs; thus Sir, I lived virtuous, and conſequently happy.

At length it pleaſed the Almighty to make trial how far I deſerved the bleſſings which were ſo laviſhly beſtowed upon me. For being on a viſit to an uncle, who lived ſome miles from my father's reſidence, and one evening being at a publick aſſembly, it was my lot to be the partner of a.

young officer, who was come into the neighbourhood to recruit for ſoldiers; the politeneſs of his addreſs, and the gentility of his deportment, made me the envy of my acquaintance; but his behaviour at that time created no other ſentiments in me, than what I thought were common with gentlemen of his profeſſion; at the cloſe of the aſſembly he preſſed me to give him a private interview the next day, which however I abſolutely refuſed; but this requeſt at once gave fire to my vanity, which ſoon blazed up in a thouſand trifling indiſcretions in my behaviour, that did not eſcape his obſervation.

The next morning he paid me a viſit, cuſtom having authorized that liberty, and my uncle received and entertained him as became a gentleman. The unaffected livelineſs of his converſation during his viſit, influenced

ed every one in his favour, and, together with his graceful perſon, created thoſe emotions in my ſoul which indicated love; and, upon his departure, I retired to my apartment, where, inſtead of quenching the encreaſing flame by reflection, I gave a looſe to every fond emotion of my heart, and fanned that fire which has deſtroyed me.

The compoſed ſerenity of mind which had hitherto been my faithful conductor, now left me; every thing I had taken pleaſure in, now loſt its power to pleaſe, and I wandered from my room to the garden, and from the garden to my room, unknowing what I ſought. In this irkſome ſituation, a female ſervant in the family ſought me out, and told me ſhe had a preſent for me; but preſents now, like childiſh toys, ceaſed to alarm me with

joy, and I had ſcarce curioſity to aſk what it was, but on her holding up a letter to me, I inſtantly divined it was from the object of my uneaſineſs, and haſtily ſnatching it from her hand, tore open the ſeal, and immediately directed my eye to the name ſubſcribed, and found I was not miſtaken. Proteſtations of love, and compliments to my perſon, were elegantly expreſſed in this billet deaux, which ended in an earneſt entreaty, that I would favour him with a meeting in an adjacent walk. Though I was truly ſenſible ſuch ſentiments as this letter contained, were eaſily feigned, and not leſs eaſily penned; yet vanity made me think the compliments paid to my perſon were the ſentiments of his heart, and love made me think his proteſtations ſincere; however, I reſolved not to grant him any private interview; but I ſoon found it difficult

cult to maintain this reſolution, the oftener I peruſed the profeſſions of his love, as if ſome ſympathethick charm was lodged in the expreſſions, the ſtronger I imbibed the poiſon, and the fatal paſſion imperceptibly ſpread itſelf over my reaſon; and in proportion as love encreaſed, my prudence retired, till, aided by fallacious arguments, the conſequence of granting his requeſt became leſs alarming; and, at length, terminated in a reſolution to meet him.

This fatal error was the ſource of my misfortune, and proved me unworthy the happineſs I poſſeſſed; at the hour appointed for the interview, I repaired to the place of aſſignation, which was the firſt ſtep that led me to my ruin; my lover, as you may imagine, was there before me, and received me with the utmoſt reſpectful love; and after expreſſing, in the po-

liteſt terms, the high ſenſe he had of my condeſcending to favour him with a meeting, he confirmed the proteſtations expreſſed in his letter by a repetition of them to my attending ears, and invoked all the powers to bear teſtimony of his faith and the purity of his love; and I confeſs I liſtened to his vows with a pleaſure before unfelt: and though he laboured to gain a confeſſion of a reciprocal return, I yet had ſo much prudence left as to give him only the glimmerings of hope, reſerving a frank confeſſion of my heart till time ſhould divulge the yet doubtful ſtate of his; the evening, at length, approaching, we parted, but not till he had extorted a promiſe from me to meet him the next day. In vain I endeavoured to reſiſt his importunities, the perſuaſive eloquence of his tongue ſilenced all my ſcruples, and diſarmed each fear that weakly ſtrug-

gled

gled with more powerful love. In ſhort, again I met him, again was the goddeſs of his adorations, the ſoul of his exiſtence, and the object on whoſe ſmiles he alone could live; with pleaſure my ears drank the ſweet poiſon from his tongue, and I confeſs it was now a pain to reſtrain myſelf from declaring the ſentiments of my heart. From this meeting ſucceeded another, and another after that, till ſoon it became needleſs to make appointments, each ſetting ſun ſtill ſaw us in the grove, and witneſſed my indiſcretion.

Scarce had a week eſcaped from our firſt meeting, e're love reigned the deſpotick tyrant in my breaſt, and ſuch was my faith in him who had reduced, me by his artful management of my ſimplicity, to the diſtreſs I now labour under, that every tender tranſport he feigned, felt and expreſſed,

and

and every rapture he falſely breathed, I proved, and confeſſed. But as ſoon as this deceiver ſaw his hopes ripened to his wiſh, he planned the cruel plunder, and moſt ungenerouſly took advantage of my love, to facilitate my ruin; and whilſt I fondly hoped I was advancing to happineſs in the ſteps of virtue, too late found I had purſued the path to——

Here the lady was interrupted in her narrative, by the arrival of a gentleman, who, from the information of his boots, and diſorder of a large white peruke, evidently ſhewed he had made more haſte than good ſpeed. This gentleman being come near Braſs and the lady, ſuddenly ſtopped, and taking off his hat held it on one ſide of his face, as if he intended to avoid being ſeen, and by a motion with his other hand, ſignified to two lank haired

attendants

attendants to keep back, and gently drawing near Braſs and the lady, when ſhe repeated the laſt words we have related, he drawled out, Soho, Soho. Upon which the young lady turning her eyes towards him, ſuddenly ſtopped, and fainted in the arms of Braſs. The ſtrange gentleman immediately ordered his attendants to ſecure Braſs, ſaying he would indemnify them from all actions, and at the ſame time declared he would take care of Mrs. Puſs. Upon which his two myrmidons ſpit in their hands, and graſped their cudgels, ſignifying their intentions to obey their maſter's orders, and immediaiely advanced towards Braſs, who was ſtill ſupporting the lady. But our young hero turning his face towards them, expreſſed by a frown more terror than all the menaces he could have uttered, and which had ſuch an effect upon them, that they ſuddenly halted,

halted, and ſtood as motionleſs as if they had ſeen the Gorgon's head. The gentleman ſeeing his aſſiſtants almoſt dead with fear, breathed ſuch life with curſes in their ears, that they revived, and brandiſhed their weapons.

By this time the lady's fugitive ſenſes were returned to their fair habitation, and looking up to the gentleman with ſuch a countenance as painted Magdalen's preſence to Heaven in her devotions, tenderly expreſſed, ---my father!---do not call me father, huſſey,---replied the gentleman, I will not be father to any -----. Here he made uſe of the ſame epithet as Braſs had formerly done when he ſpoke of the lady abbeſs of the nunnery in Covent Garden, and which produced the fatal conſequences our readers are acquainted with. But as for you, continued the gentleman, ſpeaking to Braſs,

Braſs, I will make you know what it is to contaminate the blood of an attorney of his majeſty's court of King's Bench, a ſolicitor in Chancery, a maſter extraordinary, and a commiſſioner appointed to take affidavits in the courts of King's Bench and Common Pleas,---therefore, once more I ſay, ſeize him.

Braſs did not perfectly underſtand the meaning of this gentleman's charge, nor whom he had offended, but concluded he had committed ſome bloody crime againſt the whole body of the law, or at leaſt againſt a generation of lawyers, not imagining the ſeveral honourable titles were veſted in the perſon who ſpake to him; but being armed with the ſhield of innocence, and having a good cauſe (though not the law) on his ſide, reſolved to defend his liberty againſt all who ſhould attempt

attempt to deprive him of it. And the two attendants of this important perſonage, advancing towards him, with a ſeeming determination to ſecure him; Braſs reſolved calmly to wait the attack; and Mr. Capias (that being the name of the ſtrange gentleman, and father of the young lady) having formally ordered him to ſurrender, and Braſs abſolutely refuſing, he ordered his attendants to ſeize him. Upon which the ſervants drew up in order of battle, and marched towards him; and having advanced within a few ſteps of Braſs, one of them levelled a blow at his head with an oaken ſtick; but Braſs, fixing his eyes upon his antagoniſt, received the blow in the palm of his hand, and with a ſudden jerk got the ſole poſſeſſion of it; and throwing himſelf with the utmoſt fury upon his bold aſſailant, overturned him in an inſtant; and immediately

mediately turning to his other antagoniſt, who ſtood with his ſtick held over his head, at one furious blow broke the faithleſs guard, and brought him to the ground.

The ſervants of Mr. Capias having lain extended upon the ground ſome time, at length their frighted ſenſes returned to them. But notwithſtanding Mr. Capias urged them, with all the arguments he could invent, and likewiſe gave them an aſſurance that he would ruin Braſs, yet he could not prevail upon them to renew the attack againſt him; upon which Mr. Capias poured forth a profuſion of thieves, raviſhers, and villains, upon Braſs, which being heard by two ſoldiers who were paſſing by, they ſtopped; and Mr. Capias declaring he would give a crown to any one who would ſecure him, the two ſoldiers undertook

took to perform the buſineſs; and the countrymen regaining ſpirit by this encreaſe of their number, readily joined with them.

The order of battle being again formed, the two ſoldiers leading the van, and the countrymen bringing up the rear, they reſolved to ſurround Braſs; but he being apprehenſive of it, fixed his back againſt a tree, and obliged them all to front him.

The enemy having, with a very good countenance, marched within a few yards of Braſs, he ſuddenly ruſhed forward to meet them, and by a ſucceſsful ſtroke upon the ſhin of one of the ſoldiers, with his oaken ſtick, obliged him to retreat behind the rear, not being perfectly aſſured, that his leg was not broke. Braſs having diſabled one of the aſſailants, retreated

to

to the tree again, the enemy having halted, the better to fill up the place of the wounded ſoldier; but neither of the countrymen being ambitious of the poſt of honour and danger, were both unwilling to come into the front rank, and each propoſed it to the other.

Braſs ſeeing the enemy were in ſome confuſion, thought it a proper time to decide the fate of the field, and falling upon them like lightning, once more laid one of Mr. Capias's attendants on the ground, his companion, and the other ſoldier, ſeeking their ſafety by flight. But unfortunately, the man who was upon the ground, claſping his arms round Braſs's leg, there held him; and notwithſtanding all his endeavours, he could not diſengage himſelf. The run-aways ſeeing Braſs thus entangled, again returned, and one of the ſoldiers throwing

ing himſelf upon him, and being immediately ſeconded, they at length, though with much difficulty, bent him to the ground.

Braſs being thus ſubdued, Mr. Capias ordered him to be properly ſecured; and accordingly they tied his hands together. Mr. Capias next ordered the ſoldiers and his attendants to guard him ſafely to a juſtice, declaring his firm reſolution to ruin him; and, notwithſtanding all his daughter could ſay in behalf of his innocence, he proceeded with our unfortunate adventurer to the juſtice's; where we hope our readers will accompany him, and be ready to teſtify his innocence.

CHAP.

CHAP. XV.

The fatal conſequences that enſued from Braſs's adventure with the ſtrange lady.

SUCH of our readers whoſe hearts are not cloſed in an adamantine caſe, impenetrable to the diſtreſſes of the unfortunate, or the misjudging, will, we make no doubt, be in pain for Fitzpatrick in his pilgrimage to Highgate, and conclude he muſt have wore out the ſoles of his new pumps, and that his feet were by this time as raw as a rump ſteak, if our readers will pardon our ſuppoſing them capable of ſo indelicate a ſimile.

But as our adventurous ſon of a brogue-maker, and hero of theſe true me-

memoirs, is unhappily entangled in the net of misfortune, we preſume, from our own particular regard to Braſs, that our readers had rather we ſhould purſue the thread of our narrative, relative to our hero's preſent ſituation, than leave them in an anxious doubt of his ſafety; therefore, though we profeſs to be very ſollicitous to know the iſſue of the combat betwixt Fitzpatrick and the Devil, we will proceed to recount the ſeveral matters that ſucceeded Braſs's arreſt at the ſuit of Mr. Capias.

The attorney of his majeſty's court of King's Bench, &c. &c. having taken poſſeſſion of his fugitive daughter, and likewiſe made a ſeizure of the body of her ſuppoſed gallant, ſat forward with his priſoner to the juſtice, comforting him as he went, with an aſſurance of his total ruin, and entertaining

taining him with a particular account of the various forms of law he intended to employ to ſecure his revenge; and for a confirmation of the implacability of his diſpoſition, he declared he had ruined many poor families for their ſheep or hogs having broke into his ground; for the truth of which he appealed to his two attendants, who both declared they were ready to make an affidavit of it. And Mr. Capias farther declared, that he would reduce his eſtate to a quire of paper, and a dozen of pens, but he would have ample ſatisfaction for this breach into his property; and, having gone through all the courts of law in Weſtminſter Hall with our unfortunate young adventurer, he at length brought him to the gallows, by which time they arrived at the juſtice's; which happily ſuſpended his execution.

Mr. Capias, with his priſoner, accompanied by the two ſoldiers, the two countrymen, and miſs Capias, being entered the court of juſtice, and Mr. Ballance, the juſtice, being enthroned in his chair of pre-eminence, and the ceremony of the court adjuſted, Mr. Capias opened his accuſation with a pompous account of his importance, enumerating the many honourable titles that he was dignified with, and with which our readers have already been made acquainted; and then ſet forth, that the priſoner had, with force and arms, particularly an inſtrument that is needleſs to mention, broke open the ſaid Mr. Capias's property; [here Mr. Capias pointed to his daughter]---and that though it was true he had not taken any thing away with him, yet he had left that behind him which would prevent him from making any advantage of his

ſaid

ſaid property, and not only that, but likewiſe would, in a few months, entail an expence upon him, which the priſoner ought, in juſtice, to ſtand to; and concluded with aſſuring Mr. Ballance, that the fact was greatly to the diſhonour of the family of the Capias's, to his great diſquietude, and the breach of the laws; and that he was ready to aver, maintain, and prove his ſaid charge; and humbly hoped, that he ſhould have ſuch relief in the premiſſes, as the nature of his caſe might require, and what to his worſhip ſhould ſeem meet.

Mr. Ballance having heard the accuſation made by Mr. Capias, and having intimidated Braſs in the uſual manner, by declaring he could ſee, with half an eye, that he was born to be hanged, next aſked him what he had to ſay for himſelf. Upon which

Braſs declared he knew nothing of the matter, and that the young lady preſent could vindicate his innocence; and to whom he referred for an account of the particulars.

The Hibernian accent with which Braſs made his defence, proved, with Mr. Ballance, an undoubted evidence of his guilt, and he once more declared him an inheritor of the halter.

Upon Braſs's finiſhing his defence, and referring to the young lady to prove his innocence, Mr. Capias put in a caveat againſt her evidence, obſerving, that, as ſhe was an accomplice in the fact, her depoſition could not be taken; to which Mr. Ballance aſſented. However, to corroborate his allegation, Mr. Capias produced a letter, which, he told Mr. Ballance, the priſoner at the bar had ſent to his daughter,

daughter, which would confirm his allegations, and which, as it ſerves to explain what we ſuppoſe the young lady had to mention in her narrative to Braſs, if ſhe had not been interrupted by the arrival of Mr. Capias, we have thought neceſſary to procure a copy of, and is as follows.

" MADAM,

" I MUST beg you will not trouble " me with any more of your letters, " accuſing me of a breach of my pro- " miſe, and that I have ruined you ; " if you do, I ſhall take care to ſend " them to your father. As for your " being with child, you might have " prevented the ill conſequences of " that, if you had taken the medi- " cine I ſent you ; it is now your own " fault. In regard to my promiſing " you marriage, I can aſſure you, if

" I performed it, it would be of no
" ſervice to you, as I have two wives
" in England already. Your accuſing
" me of taking an unmanly method
" to corrupt your virtue, by giving you
" improper mixtures, I will not here
" diſpute with you. I hope I have
" always acted as a gentleman and a
" man of honour, and, as ſuch, I
" now take my leave of you, wiſh-
" ing you much happineſs, and am
" your humble ſervant,

JAMES FITZMORRIS."

As ſoon as the clerk had finiſhed reading the letter, Mr. Ballance applauded himſelf for his great ſagacity in prophecying Braſs would be hanged; and aſſured him, that what was contained in the letter would be ſufficent to do him that juſtice, and immediately ordered his clerk to make out his mittimus; during which, Mr.

Capias

Capias gave Mr. Ballance an account of receiving an expreſs from his brother, with whom his daughter at that time reſided; acquainting him, that his neice had that morning left his houſe, and that he believed ſhe was ſet out for London, as ſhe was ſeen upon the road ſoon after; and that, before ſhe went, ſhe had in her hurry, as he apprehended, dropped the letter he incloſed, which was the ſame that had been juſt read; and that he had immediately taken horſe, attended by two ſervants, and took the road to London in ſearch of her; having been informed that her gallant had ſet out the preceding evening for London; and that being at length arrived in St. James's Park, he fortunately found them both together; and concluded with relating the manner and difficulty he had to ſecure Braſs;

which we have before particularly related.

Mr. Capias having finiſhed his account of his journey to London, and the mittimus being prepared, the daughter of Mr. Capias fell at her father's feet, and, with her eyes ſtreaming with tears, conjured him not to permit the gentleman to be ſent to gaol upon her account, declaring, in the moſt ſolemn manner, he was an entire ſtranger to her; and recounted the manner of their meeting together, at the time her father found them; and concluded with aſſuring him that the letter that had been read, was not of Braſs's writing, but of the perſon whoſe name was ſubſcribed to it; and confeſſed, that ſhe had, immediately after receiving it, taken the reſolution to fly to London, as a place where

where ſhe hoped, by ſome means or other, to ſeclude herſelf from the ſhame to which ſhe ſhould otherwiſe be ſhortly expoſed. But Capias was deaf to every thing ſhe could ſay, and declared, it would add much to his reptutation, after practiſing the law for upwards of thirty years, to be outwitted by a loveſick girl; and ſaid it was no wonder ſhe ſhould proſtitute her truth to ſave her lover from the gallows; ſince ſhe had proſtituted her virtue to gratify his pleaſure.

The juſtice next manifeſted his perſpicuity in a moſt conſpicuous manner, ordering pen, ink, and paper, to be ſet before Braſs; and, at the ſame time, requeſting he would give them a ſpecimen of his hand writing. But, alas, here again the unfortunate deſcendant of brogue-makers had reaſon to curſe his predeceſſors, for not

which we have before particularly related.

Mr. Capias having finiſhed his account of his journey to London, and the mittimus being prepared, the daughter of Mr. Capias fell at her father's feet, and, with her eyes ſtreaming with tears, conjured him not to permit the gentleman to be ſent to gaol upon her account, declaring, in the moſt ſolemn manner, he was an entire ſtranger to her; and recounted the manner of their meeting together, at the time her father found them; and concluded with aſſuring him that the letter that had been read, was not of Braſs's writing, but of the perſon whoſe name was ſubſcribed to it; and confeſſed, that ſhe had, immediately after receiving it, taken the reſolution to fly to London, as a place where

where ſhe hoped, by ſome means or other, to ſeclude herſelf from the ſhame to which ſhe ſhould otherwiſe be ſhortly expoſed. But Capias was deaf to every thing ſhe could ſay, and declared, it would add much to his reptutation, after practiſing the law for upwards of thirty years, to be outwitted by a loveſick girl; and ſaid it was no wonder ſhe ſhould proſtitute her truth to ſave her lover from the gallows; ſince ſhe had proſtituted her virtue to gratify his pleaſure.

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handing down to him the uſe of the pen, as, in all probability, it might have prevented the fatal conſequences of a refuſal to exhibit a ſpecimen of his hand writing, which he was now under a neceſſity of doing.

Braſs having abſolutely refuſed to ſet pen to paper, the whole court, except miſs Capias, was convinced he was guilty; and accordingly, Mr. Ballance ſigned his commitment to Bridewell, there to remain till twelve o'clock the ſucceeding day, and then to be brought before him again; at which time, Mr. Ballance declared he would aſſemble a number of ladies and gentlemen to view him, ſaying, he had a ſuſpicion he was not only guilty of the crime Mr. Capias had proved upon him, but likewiſe ſome others of as heinous a nature.

This

This ſentence threw Braſs into the utmoſt confuſion, as he ſaw no method to eſcape impriſonment; being ſenſible, if he had declared his incapacity to write, it would have been deemed a falſhood; and, in conſequence, he thought it beſt to ſave himſelf the ſhame of ſuch a confeſſion. Neither was it poſſible for him to procure bail, or ſend to any perſon to ſpeak to his character, therefore he was obliged to ſubmit to his fate; and accordingly immediately accompanied the conſtable, and his retinue of guards, to Bridewell.

CHAP. XVI.

Which concludes the first Volume of these true Memoirs.

AS soon as Brass arrived in Bridewell, he dispatched a messenger to Fitzpatrick, who he supposed was by that time returned from the performance of his penance; but the messenger returned about ten o'clock in the evening, and assured him Fitzpatrick was not to be found at any of the places where he had given him directions to enquire for him.

This unexpected piece of intelligence greatly encreased Brass's afflictions, and sunk his spirits so low, that he began to think Mr. Ballance might not prove a false prophet; and the hour of locking up the knights and damsels

damſels of this enchanted caſtle being come, our unfortunate priſoner was obliged to betake himſelf to bed, where, happily for him, his care-tired thoughts inſenſibly diſpoſed him to ſleep; and his confuſed ſenſes, which were not in the power of the juſtice to confine, ſoon took their flight and loſt themſelves in a maze of inconſiſtencies; a medley of ropes, ſplendour, gibbets, and affluence, making out the entertainment of the night.

Long before the accuſtomed hour of labour began within the walls of this repoſitory of vice, Braſs ſummoned his wandering ſenſes to their uſual reſidence, and releaſed himſelf from the bondage of ſleep. In melancholly mood he lay muſing on his unhappy ſituation; the danger of his not being able to meet Mrs. Wealthy was the leaſt of his conſiderations, and ſo great

was

was his dread of coming to an untimely end, that he would have renounced all future pretenſions to gentility, in exchange for his liberty, though it had been attended with his being ſet naked upon the Curragh of Kildare, or half ſmothered in the Bog of Allan.

Being at length diſturbed in his unpleaſing reſveries by the tumultuous noiſe of the inhabitants of this loathſome manſion, he aroſe, and endeavoured to divert his diſmal reflections by mingling amongſt his fellow priſoners; but in a ſhort time caſting his eyes upon a large quantity of ropes and hemp, ſtored here for the exerciſe and recreation of the ſecluded collegians, it created ſome diſagreeable thoughts, and he immediately returned to his apartment, reſolving to ſend once more in ſearch of his faithful

friend

friend and counſellor Fitzpatrick; accordingly, he told his former meſſenger that he would give him a crown if he brought Fitzpatrick to him before he went again to the juſtice's; the meſſenger aſſured him he would ſpare no pains to find him, and immediately ſet out upon his important embaſſy.

But the hour being at length arrived, when Braſs was to be conducted again before Mr. Ballance, without having heard any thing of Fitzpatrick, or his meſſenger's being returned; he prepared to encounter his fate, and ſullenly obeyed the conſtable's ſummons.

Our adventurer being again brought into the court of juſtice, where, in purſuance of Mr. Ballance's declared reſolution, a great number of ladies, gentlemen,

gentlemen, and others, were aſſembled; and, after every one had declared they had nothing to alledge againſt him, the crime for which he had been committed was explained to the company, and he was again requeſted to exhibit a ſpecimen of his hand writing, in oppoſition to the letter, which had been again read to the company, or to ſend to ſome gentleman to vouch for his being a perſon of character and reputation; but neither of them being in Braſs's power, he ſtill refuſed, and declared he knew nothing of the matter; upon which Mr. Ballance declared, as ſoon as Mr. Capias came, he would again commit him. The betts amongſt the gentlemen now run very high againſt our young hero, but he had the ſatisfaction to find his figure influenced the ladies in his favour.

Soon

Soon after Mr. Ballance had declared his reſolution to recommit Braſs upon the arrival of Mr. Capias, a chair arrived at the door, and the perſon within it demanded admittance, upon which Mr. Ballance ordered every one to make way, and the chair was brought into the middle of the room. The cover being lifted up, and the door opened, there appeared ſeated, with his legs extended and his feet bound in flannel, no leſs a perſonage than ---- not lord Chalkſtone, as thou mayeſt imagine, reader, but our hero's couſin Fitzpatrick. As ſoon as Fitzpatrick caſt his eyes upon his couſin Braſs, he burſt out, Holla Boy, what art got into the bilboes? Braſs was ſo much overjoyed and aſtoniſhed at the appearance of Fitzpatrick in flannels, that he remained ſpeechleſs with wonder.

The company, upon the chair's being opened, were ſurprized to ſee a ſhort, ſquat figure, wrapt up in a large yellow livery coat, a greeſy pair of leather breeches, and a coarſe pair of worſted ſtockings, with his feet wrapt in flannels, inſtead of the nobleman they had expected; and their ſurprize ſoon turned into mirth, to hear him addreſs Braſs in the manner we have related.

Mr. Ballance having put an end to the mirth of the company by commanding ſilence, demanded of Fitzpatrick what he wanted there? the ſeverity of the juſtice's aſpect reſtrained Fitzpatrick's joy; and, after a minute's pauſe, he anſwered, he came to ſee his maſter: this anſwer Braſs dictated to him by an expreſſive wink of his eye, which he ſafely ſent to him while

while the company's attention was taken up in admiring Fitzpatrick. The juſtice next interrogated Fitzpatrick, who and what his maſter was? Fitzpatrick anſwered, he was a gentleman of fortune in Ireland, and born of very honeſt and induſtrious parents; and added, that he was his relation; Mr. Ballance next aſked him what was the matter with his feet? To which Fitzpatrick replied, he had caught cold in them, and that it had turned to the gout. A porter's entrance with a letter to Mr. Ballance, put a ſtop to Fitzpatrick's farther examination, and alſo to the mirth of the company, who were not a little delighted with Fitzpatrick's anſwers.

Mr. Ballace having read the letter which the porter had brought, declared to the company, that it came from the

the gentleman on whoſe accuſation Braſs had been committed to Bridewell, and, for their farther ſatisfaction, delivered it to his clerk to read; which contained only a general account of his having found out the real perſon who had debauched his daughter, and wrote the letter he had left in his cuſtody, and that he might diſcharge the gentleman he had by miſtake ſecured; and concluded with deſiring Mr. Ballance would aſk the gentleman pardon, in his name, for every thing that had paſt.

Braſs's countenance, upon hearing the letter read, cleared up to it's uſual brightneſs, and he once more aſſumed his former air and importance.

The company next congratulated Braſs upon his happy deliverance from ſuch

ſuch a troubleſome affair, ſome adviſing him to bring an action againſt Mr. Capias, and the juſtice, for falſe impriſonment; but Braſs declared he bore no malice to any one, and that his liberty was all he required; and, without any ceremony, quitted the bar of juſtice, and repaired to his lodgings.

But Fitzpatrick was ſo elate with his couſin's good fortune, that he could not depart without making a ſpeech, wherein he aſſured Mr. Ballance, if his relation had not been diſcharged upon reading the letter, he could have given ſufficient proof that he was not the author of the other letter that was laid to his charge, declaring that, ſo far from his being able to write ſuch a letter, he knew no more of reading

reading and writing than he did of the points of the compaſs.

Fitzpatrick having thus confirmed his couſin's innocence, deſired his quondam brothers of the ſtrap to carry him to Braſs's lodgings. But, as they were carrying him through the paſſage, a jolly elderly lady ordered it to ſtop, ſaying ſhe wanted to ſpeak to the perſon within it; upon which the chairmen retired, and the lady told Fitzpatrick ſhe had ſomething to communicate to him that might be to his advantage, if he would call upon her at her houſe in Soho-Square, on the next evening, directing him to enquire for lady Manlove. During this ſpeech of lady Manlove's, Fitzpatrick's mouth and ears were open to their full extenſion, ſo that, if a word had chanced to have eſcaped his ears, his mouth might

might have caught it. As ſoon as the lady had done ſpeaking, Fitzpatrick ſwore, by the glory of Heaven, nothing but a preſs-gang ſhould prevent his waiting upon her; upon which the lady retired, and Fitzpatrick was carried to Braſs's lodging, ſometimes ſinging, and ſometimes curſing his feet.

END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.